

FORM PTO 1390 (REV 5-93) US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER 2002-0382A
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. §371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.6) [NEW] <b>107088265</b>
International Application No. PCT/JP00/06220	International Filing Date September 12, 2000	Priority Date Claimed September 17, 1999
<b>Title of Invention</b> <b>POLYORTHOESTER AND CURABLE COMPOSITION CONTAINING THE SAME</b>		
<b>Applicant(s) For DO/EO/US</b> Hisashi ISAKA; Hiroyuki HONMA; Yoshizumi MATSUNO; Haruhiko AIDA		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. §371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. §371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. §371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. §371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2)). <b>ATTACHMENT A</b> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(3)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19. 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(4)). <b>ATTACHMENT B</b> 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(5)). <b>ATTACHMENT C</b>		
<b>Items 11. to 14. below concern other document(s) or information included:</b>		
11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. <b>ATTACHMENT D</b> 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <b>ATTACHMENT E</b>		
13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment. <b>ATTACHMENT F</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.		
14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: a. Cover Page of Published International Application No. WO 01/21611 - <b>ATTACHMENT G</b> b. International Search Report - <b>ATTACHMENT H</b>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. [NEW] <b>107088265</b>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/06220	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 2002-0382A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted		CALCULATIONS      PTO USE ONLY
<b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee nor international search fee paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$1040.00 International Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$ 890.00 International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO but international search paid to USPTO ..... \$ 740.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO but claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$ 690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$ 100.00		<b>\$ 890.00</b>
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>		<b>\$ 890.00</b>
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [ ] 20 [ ] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		<b>\$ 1,070.00</b>
Claims      Number Filed      Number Extra      Rate Total Claims      30 -20 =      10      X \$18.00      \$ 180.00 Independent Claims      1 - 3 =      0      X \$84.00 Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)      + \$280.00		<b>\$ 1,070.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>		<b>\$1,070.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status is hereby asserted. Above fees are reduced by 1/2.		<b>\$ 1,070.00</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>		<b>\$1,070.00</b>
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than [ ] 20 [ ] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).      +		<b>\$ 1,110.00</b>
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>		<b>\$1,110.00</b>
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40 per property      +		<b>\$ 40.00</b>
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>		<b>\$1,110.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of <u>\$ 1,110.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed. A duplicate copy of this form is enclosed.		<b>\$</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 23-0975 in the amount of <u>\$ _____</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		<b>\$</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>23-0975</u> .		<b>\$</b>
<b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b>		
19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS		
 <b>000513</b> PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE		
By: <u>Matthew Jacob</u> Matthew Jacob, Registration No. 25,154 WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Phone:(202) 721-8200 Fax:(202) 721-8250		
March 18, 2002		

[CHECK NO. 49377]

[2002-0382A]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hisashi ISAKA et al. : Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. [NEW] : Docket No. 2002-0382A

Filed March 18, 2002 :

POLYORTHOESTER AND CURABLE  
COMPOSITION CONTAINING THE SAME  
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/06220  
Filed September 12, 2000]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

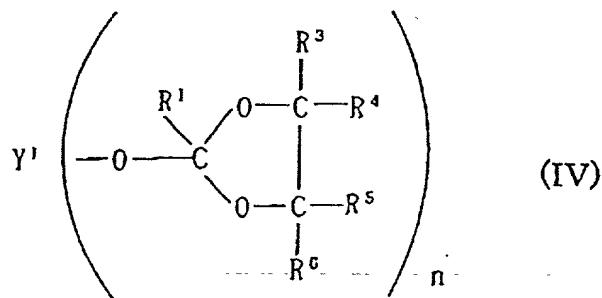
Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution and to reduce PTO filing fees, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

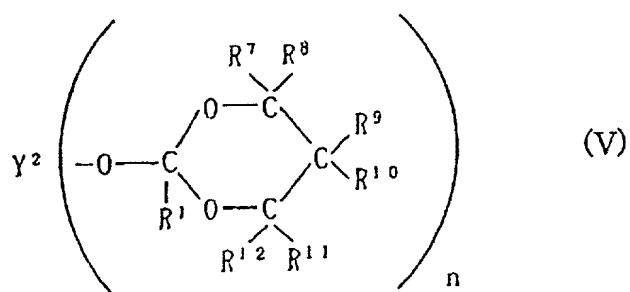
*Please amend claims 11 and 12 as follows:*

11. (Amended) the polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (IV):



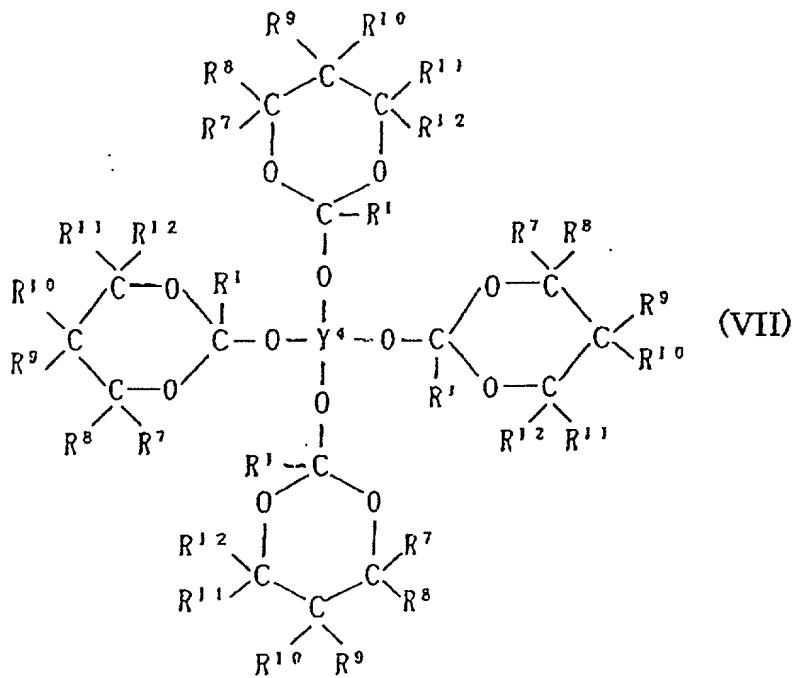
wherein  $Y^1$  represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule;  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly; and  $n$  represents an integer of 2 to 6, or

the following Formula (V):



wherein  $Y^2$  represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule;  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $R^7$  and  $R^9$  or  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly; and  $n$  represents an integer of 2 to 6.

12. (Amended) The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (VII):



wherein  $Y^4$  represents a residue obtained by removing the following four hydroxyl groups from a compound having four hydroxy groups in a molecule;  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $R^7$  and  $R^9$  or  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly.

**R E M A R K S**

The above amendment is presented to eliminate multiple dependent claims, thereby reducing PTO filing fees.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is entitled "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Favorable action on the merits is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Hisashi ISAKA et al.

By Matthew Jacob

Matthew Jacob  
Registration No. 25,154  
Attorney for Applicants

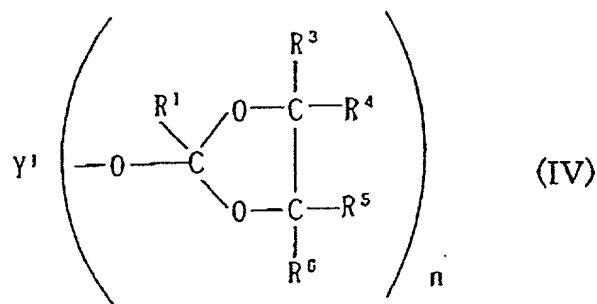
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March 18, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

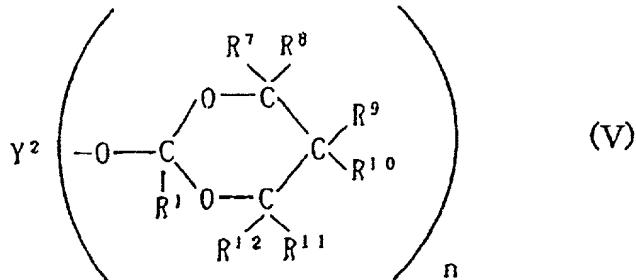
*Claims 11 and 12 have been amended as follows:*

11. (Amended) the polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (IV):



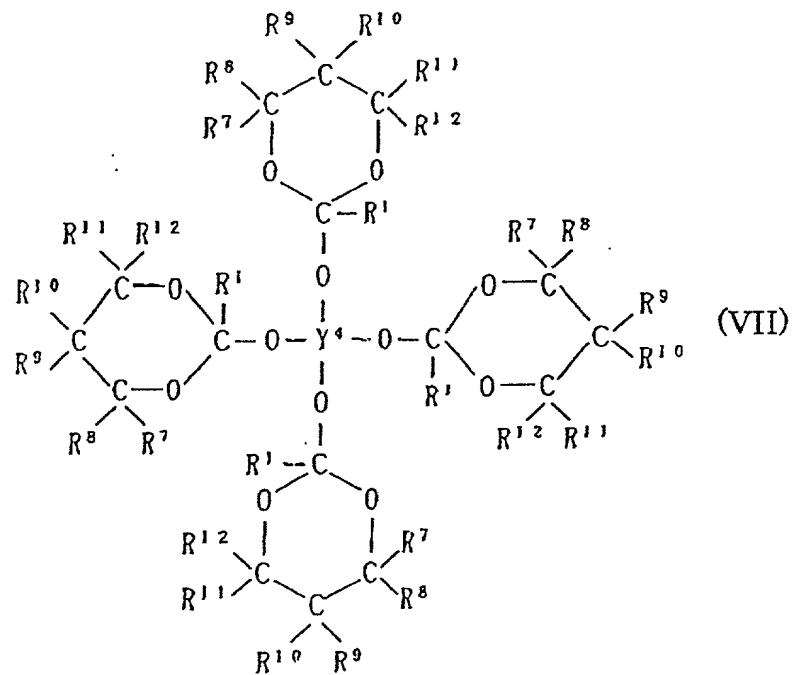
wherein  $Y^1$  represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule; [ $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are the same as defined in claim 1 and 4]  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly; and  $n$  represents an integer of 2 to 6, or

the following Formula (V):



wherein  $Y^2$  represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule;  $[R^1, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4]  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;  $R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $R^7$  and  $R^9$  or  $R^7, R^9$  and  $R^{11}$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly; and  $n$  represents an integer of 2 to 6.

12. (Amended) The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (VII):



wherein  $Y^4$  represents a residue obtained by removing the following four hydroxyl groups from a compound having four hydroxyl groups in a molecule; [and  $R^1, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}$  and

R<sup>12</sup> are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4] R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> falls in a range of 0 to 24; and R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> or R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly.

## DESCRIPTION

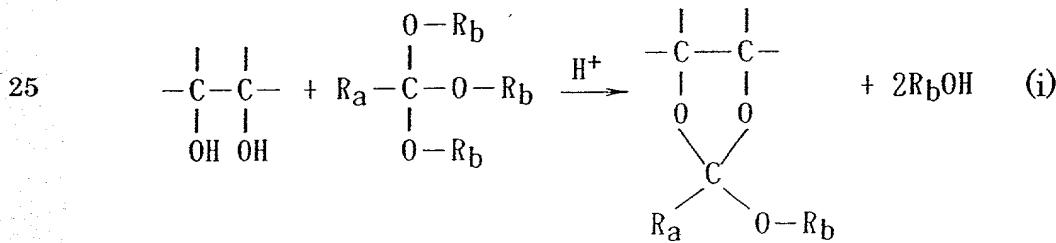
POLYORTHOESTER AND CURABLE  
COMPOSITION CONTAINING THE SAME

## 5 Technical Field

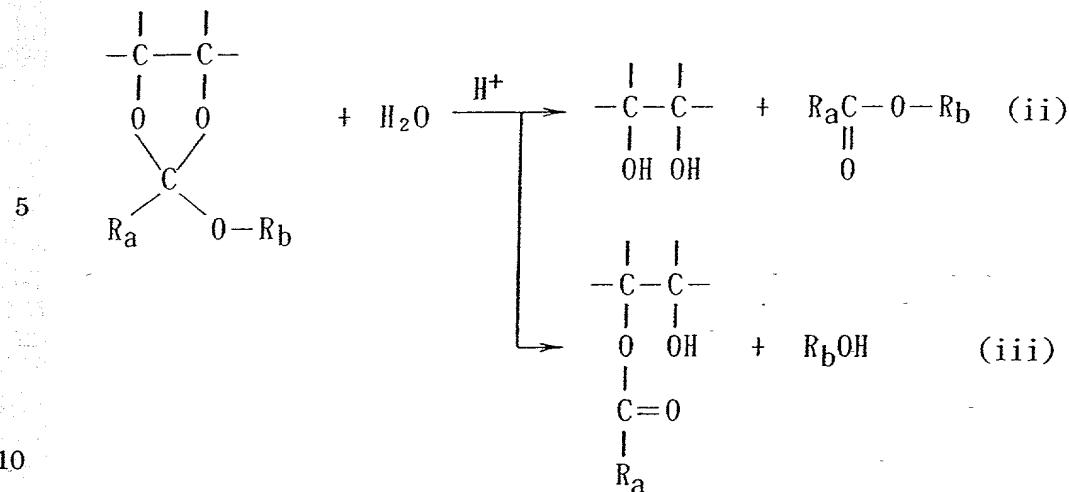
The present invention relates to a polyorthoester and a curable composition containing the same, more specifically to a novel polyorthoester which has a low viscosity and is readily controlled in a molecular weight and which has a high degree of freedom in molecular design and a production process for the same, and a curable composition containing the above polyorthoester, which can be reduced in a viscosity and increased in a solid content.

## 15 Background Art

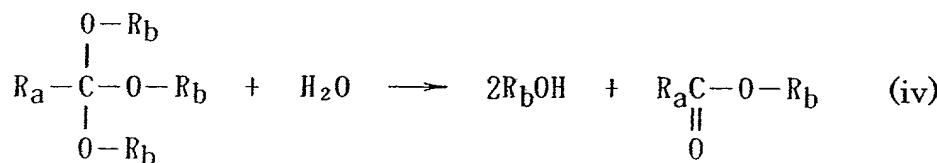
An orthoester has so far been used as a dehydrating agent and a synthetic raw material for and various compounds. Further, orthoester is known as a protective group for a hydroxyl group and protects a hydroxyl group on such moderate conditions as a room 20 temperature in the presence of an acid catalyst by reaction as shown in the following equation (i):



30 The protected hydroxyl group is stable under a base condition, but the protective group is readily desorbed under an acid condition by hydrolysis as shown in the following equation (ii) or (iii):

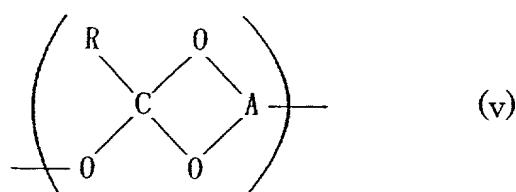


In general, an orthoester is easily hydrolyzed to form two molecules of alcohol and one molecule of ester:



Proposed are several techniques on a polyorthoester industrially making use of such characteristics of the polyorthoester. For example, a polyorthoester for a photoresist is described in Japanese Patent Publication No.20325/1988 (=U.S Patent No.4,311,782), and a polyorthoester for drug delivery is described in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (through PCT) No.502465/1993 (=U.S Patent No.5,824,343).

The polyorthoesters described in these official gazettes are compounds which are obtained by condensing triols with orthoesters and which have a specific repetitive unit, for example, a repetitive unit represented by the following formula (v):



However, in producing this compound, only specific triol can be used as a hydroxy group-containing compound, and it has a degree of a freedom only in such an extent that a molecular weight can be changed by a blending ratio of the triol to the orthoester, so that 5 there is the problem that a degree of freedom in molecular design is low.

Further, a polymer having a spiroorthoester structure is described in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No.42724/1982 (=U.S Patent No.4,368,314), and it is shown that the above polymer 10 is a cross-linking high polymer having a small volumetric shrinkage. However, lactone is essentially used as a raw material, and therefore a degree of freedom in molecular design is low. Further, a polymer having a bicycloorthoester structure is described in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No.233114/1985, and it is shown that the 15 above polymer is a cross-linking high polymer having an excellent balance between an elastic modulus and a toughness. However, trimethylolpropane or trimethylolethane is essentially used as a raw material, and therefore involved therein is the problem that a degree of freedom in molecular design is low.

Further, described in EP-A-882106 is a coating material 20 composition which contains a bicyclo- or spiro-orthoester-functional compound and which has a low volatile organic substance content (VOC) and a long pot life. However, this coating material composition has to use triol, tetraol, lactone or oxetane as a raw 25 material, and therefore involved as well therein is the problem that a degree of freedom in molecular design is low.

It is known, as described above, that an alkoxy group of an 30 orthoester is subjected to alcohol exchange reaction with a hydroxyl group in the presence of an acid catalyst, and a 5-membered ring, a 6-membered ring or a bicyclo ring can be formed by using a hydroxyl 35 group-containing compound in which two hydroxyl groups are close. Making use of this property, an orthoester is used as a protective group for close hydroxyl groups mainly in the biochemical field.

Three alkoxy groups of an orthoester can be subjected to 35 alcohol exchange reaction, and it can be turned into a polyorthoester

by combining with polyhydric alcohol. In this case, if an orthoester is subjected merely to exchange reaction with polyhydric alcohol (condensation reaction by dealcohol), it is gelatinized by converting into three dimension.

Further, a curable resin composition prepared by combining a polyhydric hydroxyl group-containing compound or a resin with a curing agent has so far been known, and the above curable resin composition has the problems that it is increased in a viscosity which originates in a hydroxyl group and reduced in a compatibility and that it is increased in a polarity and deteriorated in a wetting property when coated on a base material and it is inferior in storage stability when mixed with a curing agent having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group at a room temperature such as a polyisocyanate compound.

One object of the present invention is to provide a novel polyorthoester having a high degree of freedom in molecular design and a low viscosity and capable of being readily controlled in a molecular weight.

One more object of the present invention is to provide an industrially useful process in which capable of being easily produced is a novel polyorthoester having a high degree of freedom in molecular design and a low viscosity and capable of being readily controlled in a molecular weight.

A different object of the present invention is to provide a curable composition using a polyorthoester having a high degree of freedom in molecular design and a low viscosity and capable of being readily controlled in a molecular weight, in which there involved is no problem originating in a hydroxyl group, for example, a problem on an increase in a viscosity of the curable composition; the solid content can be elevated; and the compatibility, the wetting property to a base material and the storage stability are good.

Further different object of the present invention is to provide a curable composition using a polyorthoester having a high degree of freedom in molecular design and a low viscosity and capable of being readily controlled in a molecular weight, in which there involved are

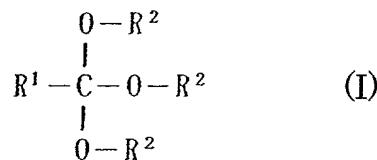
no problems on a curability of the curable composition and a reduction in the hardness; the viscosity can be reduced, and the solid content can be elevated; and the compatibility and the wetting property to a base material are good.

The other objects and the characteristics of the present invention shall be apparent from the following descriptions.

### Disclosure of the Invention

Thus, the present invention provides a polyorthoester prepared by reacting:

(a) an orthoester represented by the following Formula (I):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and three  $\text{R}^2$ 's may be the same or different and each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

(b) at least one glycol compound selected from  $\alpha$ -glycols and  $\beta$ -glycols, and

(c) a hydroxyl group-containing compound having at least two hydroxyl groups in a molecule other than the compound (b) described above.

Further, the present invention provides a production process for a polyorthoester characterized by subjecting the orthoester (a), the glycol compound (b) and the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) each described above to condensation reaction in the presence of an acid catalyst.

Further, the present invention provides a curable composition (hereinafter referred to as a curable composition I) comprising:

(A) the polyorthoester described above, and  
 (B) a curing agent having a group having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group.

Further, the present invention provides a curable composition

(hereinafter referred to as a curable composition II) comprising:

- (1) a base polymer having a reactivity with the following curing agent (2),
- (2) a curing agent having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group and having a reactivity with the base polymer (1), and
- (3) the polyorthoester described above.

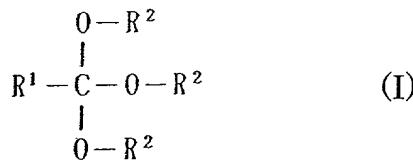
The polyorthoester and the curable composition of the present invention shall be explained below in further details.

#### Polyorthoester

The polyorthoester of the present invention is a reaction product of the orthoester (a), the glycol compound (b) and the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) each described below.

#### Orthoester (a):

The orthoester which is the component (a) is a compound represented by the following Formula (I):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and three R<sup>2</sup>'s may be the same or different and each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

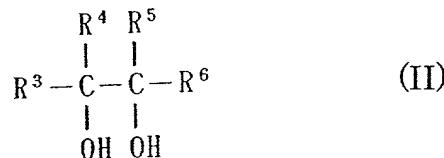
In Formula (I) described above, the "alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms" represented by R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is linear or branched and includes, for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl and t-butyl.

The specific examples of the orthoester (a) include, for example, methyl orthoformate, ethyl orthoformate, propyl orthoformate, butyl orthoformate, methyl orthoacetate, ethyl orthoacetate, methyl orthopropionate, ethyl orthopropionate, methyl orthobutyrate and ethyl orthobutyrate. Among them, methyl orthoformate, ethyl orthoformate, methyl orthoacetate and ethyl orthoacetate are suited. They may be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof.

Glycol compound (b):

The glycol compound which is the component (b) is at least one glycol compound selected from  $\alpha$ -glycols and  $\beta$ -glycols having two hydroxyl groups in a molecule.

5 Among them, a compound represented by the following Formula (II) can suitably be used as the  $\alpha$ -glycol:



10 wherein  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24, preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24, preferably 7 to 15 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  falls in a range of 0 to 24, preferably 0 to 10; and  $\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly.

15 In Formula (II) described above, the "alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms" represented by  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  or  $\text{R}^6$  is linear, branched or cyclic and includes methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, n-octyl, 2-ethylhexyl, decyl, dodecyl, 20 octadecyl, cyclohexyl, methylcyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

25 In Formula (II) described above, the "aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms" represented by  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  or  $\text{R}^6$  is preferably an alkyl group substituted with phenyl, and the specific examples thereof include benzyl and phenethyl.

30 In Formula (II) described above, the "group obtained by substituting a part of the alkyl group, the aralkyl group or the phenyl group with an oxygen atom" represented by  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  or  $\text{R}^6$  includes, for example, an alkoxyalkyl group such as methoxymethyl, 35 ethoxymethyl, propoxymethyl and butoxymethyl; an

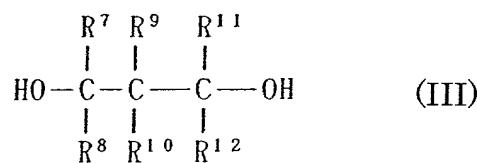
alkanoyloxyalkyl group such as acetoxyethyl and acetoxyethyl; and an aryloxyalkyl group such as phenoxyethyl and phenoxyethyl.

Among them, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> or R<sup>6</sup> in Formula (II) described above is preferably a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

In Formula (II) described above, the cyclic structure which can be formed by R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly includes, for example, a cyclohexyl group and a cyclopentyl group.

Thus, the representative examples of the  $\alpha$ -glycols include, for example, ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,2-butylene glycol, 2,3-butylene glycol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-dihydroxycyclohexane, pinacol and hydrolysis products of long chain alkyl monoepoxides; fatty acid monoglycerides ( $\alpha$  products) such as glycerin monoacetate ( $\alpha$  product) and glycerin monostearate ( $\alpha$  product); 3-ethoxypropane-1,2-diol and 3-phenoxypropane-1,2-diol. Among them, ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol and 1,2-hexanediol are suited.

On the other hand, particularly a compound represented by the following Formula (III) can suitably be used as the  $\beta$ -glycol:



wherein R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24, preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24, preferably 7 to 10 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> falls in a range of 0 to 24, preferably 0 to 10; and R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> or R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly.

In Formula (III) described above, the "alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms" represented by R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> or R<sup>12</sup> includes

the same ones as those described above as the alkyl group represented by R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> or R<sup>6</sup> in Formula (II) described above.

In Formula (III) described above, the "aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms" represented by R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> or R<sup>12</sup> is preferably an alkyl group substituted with phenyl, and the specific examples thereof include benzyl and phenethyl.

In Formula (III) described above, the "group obtained by substituting a part of the alkyl group, the aralkyl group or the phenyl group with an oxygen atom" represented by R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> or R<sup>12</sup> includes, for example, an alkoxyalkyl group such as methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, propoxymethyl and butoxymethyl; an alkanoyloxyalkyl group such as acetoxyethyl and acetoxyethyl; and an aryloxyalkyl group such as phenoxyethyl and phenoxyethyl.

In Formula (III) described above, the cyclic structure which can be formed by R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> or R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly includes, for example, a cyclohexyl group and a cyclopentyl group.

Among them, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> or R<sup>12</sup> in Formula (III) described above is preferably a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Thus, the representative examples of the  $\beta$ -glycols include, for example, neopentyl glycol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol, 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, 2,2-diethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol, 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-phenoxypropane-1,3-diol, 2-methyl-2-phenylpropane-1,3-diol, 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, dimethylolpropionic acid, dimethylolbutanoic acid, 2-ethyl-1,3-octanediol and 1,3-dihydroxycyclohexane; fatty acid monoglycerides ( $\beta$  products) such as glycerin monoacetate ( $\beta$  product) and glycerin monostearate ( $\beta$  product). Among them, suited are neopentyl glycol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol, 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, 2,2-diethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol and 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol.

(c) Hydroxyl group-containing compound

The hydroxyl group-containing compound which is the

component (c) is a compound having two or more hydroxyl groups in a molecule other than the glycol compound (b) described above.

The hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) includes compounds having two hydroxyl groups other than  $\alpha$ -glycols and  $\beta$ -glycols or compounds having 3 or more, preferably 3 to 40 hydroxyl groups in a molecule.

The compounds having two hydroxyl groups other than  $\alpha$ -glycols and  $\beta$ -glycols include, for example, 1,4-butanediol, 1,4-dihydroxycyclohexane, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,5-hexanediol, 3-methyl-1,5-pentanediol, 1,4-dimethylolcyclohexane, tricyclodecanedimethanol, 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropyl-2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropionate (this compound corresponds to ester of hydroxypivalic acid and neopentyl glycol), bisphenol A, bisphenol F, bis(4-hydroxyhexyl)-2,2-propane, bis(4-hydroxyhexyl)methane, 3,9-bis(1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)-2,4,8,10-tetraoxaspiro[5,5]undecane, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetra- or more polyethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, tetra- or more polypropylene glycol, copolymers having hydroxyl groups at both terminals obtained by copolymerizing ethylene oxide with propylene oxide, linear polyesters having hydroxyl groups at both terminals such as polycaprolactonediol, polycarbonatediol and carboxylic acid adducts of diepoxide.

The compounds described above having 3 or more hydroxyl groups include, for example, glycerin, diglycerin, triglycerin, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, sorbitol, mannit, trimethylolethane, trimethylolpropane, ditrimethylolpropane, tris(2-hydroxyethyl)isocyanurate, gluconic acid and polymers having 3 or more hydroxyl groups (polyesters, polyethers, acryl polymers, ketone resins, phenol resins, epoxy resins, urethane resins those having 3 or more hydroxyl groups, polyvinyl alcohols which are saponified products of polyvinyl acetates and natural saccharides such as glucose), each of which has 3 or more hydroxyl groups.

Capable of being suitably used as the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) are the compounds having a molecular weight falling in a range of 90 to 100,000, particularly 100 to 50,000

and further particularly 100 to 10,000 and a hydroxyl group value falling in a range of 20 to 1,850 mg KOH/g, particularly 40 to 1,650 mg KOH/g and further particularly 80 to 1,650 mg KOH/g.

#### Production of polyorthoester

5 In producing the polyorthoester of the present invention, a blending ratio of the orthoester (a), the glycol compound (b) and the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) shall not specifically be restricted. In general, it is suitable in terms of an easiness in controlling the molecular weight to use the orthoester (a) in a proportion falling in a range of 0.01 to 10 moles, preferably 0.05 to 5 moles and more preferably 0.1 to 2 moles and the glycol compound (b) in a proportion falling in a range of 0.01 to 10 moles, preferably 0.05 to 5 moles and more preferably 0.1 to 2 moles each per equivalent of a hydroxyl group contained in the hydroxyl group-containing compound 10 (c).

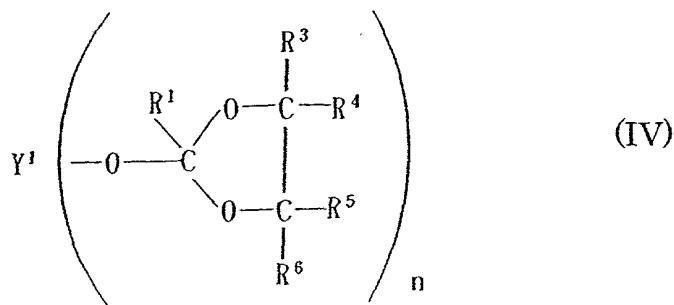
15 The polyorthoester of the present invention can be obtained by subjecting the three components (a), (b) and (c) described above to condensation reaction. For example, it can suitably be produced by heating the three components described above at a temperature falling in a range of usually a room temperature to 250°C, preferably 20 70 to 200°C for 1 to 20 hours, if necessary, in the presence of an organic solvent and an acid catalyst to subject them to condensation reaction.

25 In the present invention, an alkoxy group of the orthoester (a) causes exchange reaction with the alcohol parts of the glycol compound (b) and the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c). In this case, the orthoester (a) is preferentially reacted with the  $\alpha$ -glycol or  $\beta$ -glycol which is the glycol compound (b) having hydroxyl groups close to each other to form a cyclic structure. That is, the glycol compound (b) is cyclized by preferentially reacting with two functional groups (alkoxyl groups) of the orthoester (a) which is trifunctional. The remaining one alkoxy group of the orthoester is reacted with the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c). Thus, cross-linking between the molecules is not brought about in 30 35 producing the polyorthoester of the present invention, and therefore

the resulting polyorthoester can be inhibited to a large extent from being increased in a molecular weight and a viscosity. On the other hand, if the orthoester (a) is reacted directly with the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) in the absence of the glycol compound (b), cross-linking between the molecules takes place, so that the product is rapidly increased in a molecular weight and a viscosity. The present invention has made it possible to inhibit the product from being increased in a molecular weight and a viscosity to control them by adding the glycol compound (b) to the orthoester (a) and the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) to react them.

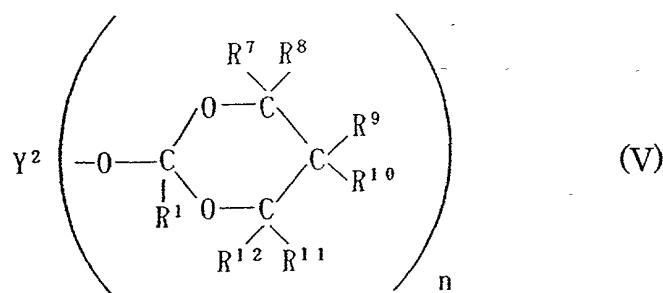
Thus, obtained is the polyorthoester having a structure in which a hydroxyl group contained in the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) is blocked by the orthoester of a 5-membered ring or a 6-membered ring constituted by the orthoester (a) and the glycol compound (b).

When used as the raw materials are, for example, the orthoester represented by Formula (I) described above, the  $\alpha$ -glycol represented by Formula (II) described above and the compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule, the polyorthoester of the present invention produced in the manner described above can have a structure represented by the following Formula (IV):



30 wherein  $Y^1$  represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from the compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule;  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are the same as defined above; and  $n$  represents an integer of 2 to 6. Further, when used as the raw materials are, for example, the orthoester represented by Formula (I) described above, the  $\beta$ -glycol

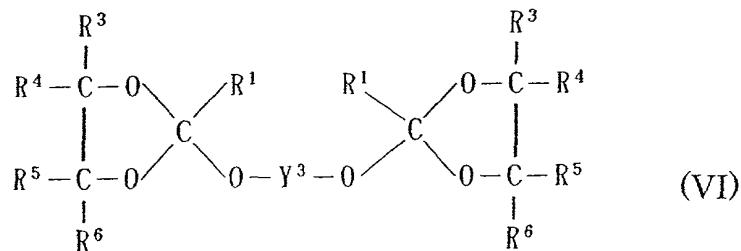
represented by Formula (III) described above and the compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule, the polyorthoester of the present invention produced in the manner described above can have a structure represented by the following Formula (V):



wherein  $Y^2$  represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from the compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule;  $R^1$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are the same as defined above; and  $n$  represents an integer of 2 to 6.

15

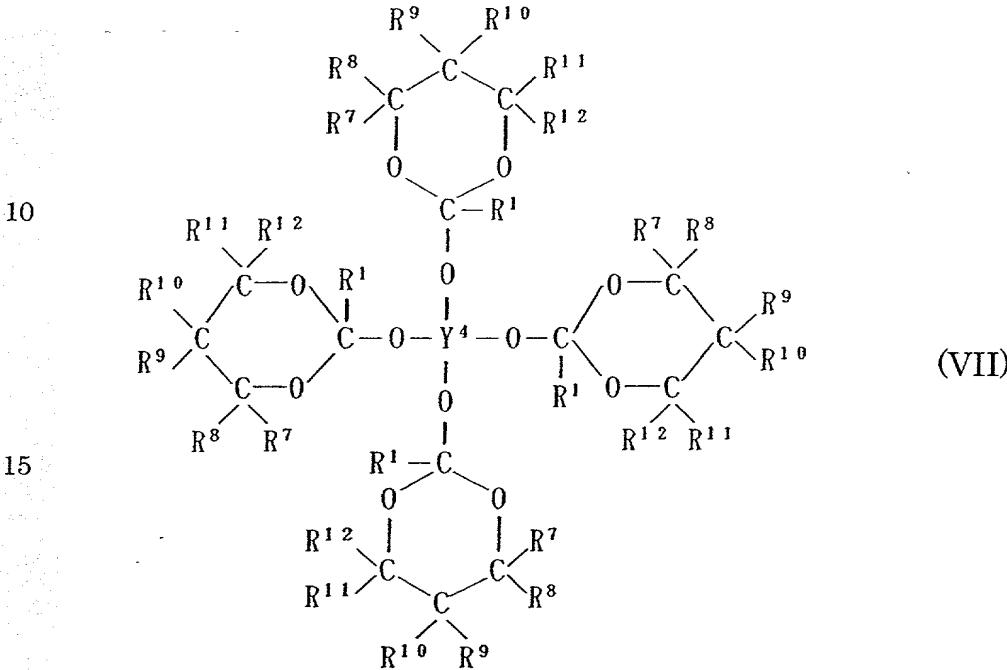
Further, when used as the raw materials are, for example, the orthoester represented by Formula (I) described above, the  $\alpha$ -glycol represented by Formula (II) described above and the compound having 2 hydroxyl groups in a molecule, the polyorthoester of the present invention produced in the manner described above can have a structure represented by the following Formula (VI):



30

wherein  $Y^3$  represents a residue obtained by removing 2 hydroxyl groups from the compound having 2 hydroxyl groups in a molecule; and  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are the same as defined above. Also, when used as the raw materials are, for example, the orthoester

represented by Formula (I) described above, the  $\beta$ -glycol represented by Formula (III) described above and the compound having 4 hydroxyl groups in a molecule, the polyorthoester of the present invention produced in the manner described above can have a structure represented by the following Formula (VII):



wherein  $Y^4$  represents a residue obtained by removing the four hydroxyl groups from the compound having four hydroxyl groups in a molecule; and  $R^1$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are the same as defined above.

The polyorthoester provided by the present invention can be used as a binder, a cross-linking agent and a reactive diluent for coating materials, inks and adhesives. Further, it can be used as a hydrolytic polymer, a biodegradable polymer and a controlled release chemical.

Curable composition I:

The curable composition I provided by the present invention comprises:

- (A) the polyorthoester of the present invention described above, and
- (B) a curing agent having a group having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group.

Curing agent (B):

5 In this curable composition I, a compound (hereinafter, referred to as a "compound (B)") having at least two groups having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group in a molecule is used as the curing agent (B) in order to cause a three-dimensional cross-linking reaction with the polyorthoester (A), and the above compound is reacted with a hydroxyl group formed by hydrolysis of an orthoester group in the polyorthoester (A) to form a cured matter.

10 Capable of being given as the representative examples of the compound (B) are, for example, polyisocyanate compounds, amino resins, epoxy group-containing compounds, alkoxysilyl group-containing compounds and compounds having two or more carboxylic anhydride groups.

15 The polyisocyanate compounds described above include all of compounds in which isocyanato groups (NCO group) are not blocked (hereinafter abbreviated as "non-blocked polyisocyanate compound") and compounds in which isocyanato groups are partially or completely blocked (hereinafter abbreviated as "blocked polyisocyanate compound").

20 The non-blocked polyisocyanate compounds include, for example, aliphatic diisocyanates such as lysine diisocyanate, hexamethylene diisocyanate and trimethylhexane diisocyanate; alicyclic diisocyanates such as hydrogenated xylilene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, methylcyclohexane-2,4 or 2,6-diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate) and 1,3-(isocyanatomethyl)cyclohexane; aromatic diisocyanates such as toylene diisocyanate, xylylene diisocyanate and diphenylmethane diisocyanate; organic polyisocyanates including trivalent or more polyisocyanates such as lysine triisocyanate, adducts of these organic polyisocyanates to polyhydric alcohols, low molecular weight polyester resins or water, cyclic polymers (for example, isocyanurate) of the respective organic diisocyanates themselves described above, and biuret type adducts thereof; and copolymers of isocyanate group-containing ethylenically unsaturated compounds such as 35 isocyanatoethyl (meth)acrylate and m-isopropenyl- $\alpha,\alpha$ -

dimethylbenzylisocyanate with other ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

The blocked polyisocyanate compounds are obtained by blocking the isocyanate groups of the non-blocked polyisocyanate compounds described above with a blocking agent. Capable of being suitably used as the blocking agent described above are, for example, blocking agents including phenol bases such as phenol, cresol and xylanol; lactam bases such as  $\epsilon$ -caprolactam,  $\delta$ -valerolactam,  $\gamma$ -butyrolactam and  $\beta$ -propiolactam; alcohol bases such as methanol, ethanol, n- or i-propyl alcohol, n-, i- or t-butyl alcohol, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether and benzyl alcohol; oxime bases such as formamidoxime, acetaldoxime, acetoxime, methyl ethyl ketoxime, diacetylmonoxime, benzophenoneoxime and cyclohexaneoxime; and active methylene bases such as dimethyl malonate, diethyl malonate, ethyl acetoacetate, methyl acetoacetate and acetylacetone. The isocyanate groups of the polyisocyanates can readily be blocked by mixing the non-blocked polyisocyanate compounds described above with the blocking agents described above.

These polyisocyanate compounds can be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof.

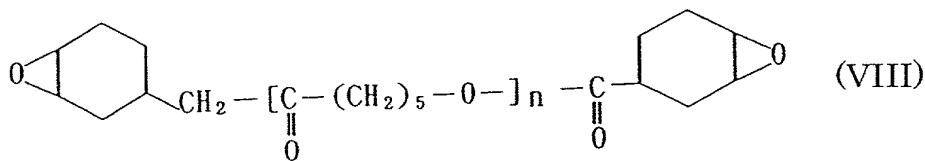
The amino resins which can be used as the compound (B) include, for example, methylol amino resins obtained by reacting aldehydes with amino components such as melamine, urea, benzoguanamine, acetoguanamine, steroguanamine, spiroguanamine and dicyanediamide. The aldehydes described above include, for example, formaldehyde, paraformaldehyde, acetaldehyde and benzaldehyde. Further, compounds obtained by etherifying these methylol amino resins with at least one alcohol are included in the amino resins described above. The alcohols used for the etherification include, for example, monohydric alcohols such as methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, n-propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, n-butyl alcohol, isobutyl alcohol, 2-ethylbutanol and 2-ethylhexanol.

Among them, particularly suited are the melamine resins obtained by etherifying at least a part of the methylol groups of the methylol melamine resins with the monohydric alcohols having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Capable of being given as the specific examples of the melamine resins described above are, for example, methyl-etherified melamine resins such as Cymel 300, ditto 303, ditto 325, ditto 327, ditto 350, ditto 730, ditto 736 and ditto 738 (all described above are manufactured by Mitsui Cytec Co., Ltd.), Melan 522 and ditto 523 (all described above are manufactured by Hitachi Chemical Co., Ltd.), Nikalac MS 001, ditto MX430 and ditto MX650 (all described above are manufactured by Sanwa Chemical Co., Ltd.), Sumimal M-550, ditto M-100 and ditto M-40S (all described above are manufactured by Sumitomo Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd.) and Resimine 740 and ditto 747 (all described above are manufactured by Monsanto Co., Ltd.); butyl-etherified melamine resins such as U-van 20SE and ditto 225 (all described above are manufactured by Mitsui Toatsu Co., Ltd.) and Super Beckamine J820-60, ditto L-117-60, ditto L-109-65, ditto 47-508-60, ditto L-118-60 and ditto G821-60 (all described above are manufactured by Dainippon Ink & Chemicals Ind. Co., Ltd.); and methyl ether and butyl ether-mixed etherified melamine resins such as Cymel 232, ditto 266, ditto XV-514 and ditto 1130 (all described above are manufactured by Mitsui Cytec Co., Ltd.), Nikalac MX500, ditto MX600 ditto MS35 and ditto MS 95 (all described above are manufactured by Sanwa Chemical Co., Ltd.), Resimine 753 and ditto 755 (all described above are manufactured by Monsanto Co., Ltd.) and Sumimal M-66B (manufactured by Sumitomo Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd.). These melamine resins can be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof.

The epoxy group-containing compound which can be used as the compound (B) is a compound having two or more epoxy groups in a molecule, and the representative examples thereof include ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, propylene glycol diglycidyl ether, tripropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, 1,4-butanediol diglycidyl ether,

neopentyl glycol diglycidyl ether, 1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether,  
glycerin diglycidyl ether, diglycerin tetraglycidyl ether,  
trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether, 2,6-diglycidyl phenyl ether,  
sorbitol triglycidyl ether, triglycidyl isocyanurate, diglycidylamine,  
5 diglycidylbenzylamine, diglycidyl phthalate, bisphenol A diglycidyl  
ether, butadiene dioxide, cyclopentadiene dioxide, diester of 3,4-  
epoxycyclohexenecarboxylic acid and ethylene glycol, 3,4-  
epoxycyclohexylmethyl-3,4-epoxycyclohexanecarboxylate, 3,4-epoxy-6-  
methylcyclohexylmethyl-3,4-epoxy-6-methylcyclohexanecarboxylate,  
10 bis(3,4-epoxycyclohexylmethyl) adipate, glycidyl ether of  
dicyclopentadieneol epoxide, dipentene dioxide, adducts of bisphenol  
A type epoxy resins and ethylene oxide, Epoleade GT300  
(trifunctional alicyclic epoxy compound, manufactured by Daicel  
Chemical Industries Ltd.), Epoleade GT400 (tetrafunctional alicyclic  
15 epoxy compound, manufactured by Daicel Chemical Industries Ltd.);  
Epoleade GT301, ditto GT302 and ditto GT303 (ring-opened  $\epsilon$ -  
caprolactone chain-containing trifunctional alicyclic epoxy  
compounds, all described above are manufactured by Daicel Chemical  
Industries Ltd.); Epoleade GT401, ditto GT402 and ditto GT403  
20 (ring-opened  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone chain-containing tetrafunctional alicyclic  
epoxy compounds, all described above are manufactured by Daicel  
Chemical Industries Ltd.); Epikote 828, ditto 834 and ditto 100  
(bisphenol A type epoxy resins, all described above are manufactured  
by Yuka Shell Epoxy Co., Ltd.); Epikote 154 (cresol novolak type  
25 epoxy resin, manufactured by Yuka Shell Epoxy Co., Ltd.); Celloxide  
2081, ditto 2082 and ditto 2083 each represented by the following  
Formula (VIII) (all described above are manufactured by Daicel  
Chemical Industries Ltd.; in the following Formula (VIII), the  
product in which n is 1 is Celloxide 2081; the product in which n is 2  
30 is Celloxide 2082; and the product in which n is 3 is Celloxide 2083);  
and Denacol EX-411 represented by the following Formula (IX)  
(manufactured by Nagase Kasei Co., Ltd.):



15 In Formula (VIII), n represents an integer of 1 to 3.

The epoxy group-containing compound described above includes copolymers of epoxy group-containing polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as glycidyl (meth)acrylate, allyl glycidyl ether and 3,4-epoxycyclohexylmethyl (meth)acrylate with other polymerizable unsaturated monomers. The other polymerizable unsaturated monomers described above include, for example, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>24</sub> alkyl (meth)acrylates such as methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, isopropyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, isobutyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, n-octyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate and stearyl (meth)acrylate; monoesters of polyhydric alcohols and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid such as 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, 2,3-dihydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate and polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate; compounds obtained by subjecting  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone to ring opening reaction with the monoesters of the polyhydric alcohols described above and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid; alkoxy silyl group-containing polymerizable unsaturated compounds such as vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinylmethyldimethoxysilane, vinylmethyldiethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropylmethyldiethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropyltriethoxysilane,  $\beta$ -(meth)acryloyloxyethyltrimethoxysilane and  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxybutylphenyldimethoxysilane; vinyl aromatic

compounds such as styrene, vinyltoluene and  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene; acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, tricyclodecanyl (meth)acrylate, isobornyl (meth)acrylate, vinyl acetate and Beova Monomer (manufactured by Shell Chemical Co., Ltd.).

5 The epoxy group-containing compounds described above can be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof. A content of the epoxy group of the epoxy group-containing compound described above shall not specifically be restricted, and the epoxy equivalent falls suitably in a range of usually 100 to 3,000, preferably 100 to 500.

10 The alkoxy silyl group-containing compound which can be used as the compound (B) is a compound having two or more alkoxy silyl groups in a molecule and includes, for example, alkoxy silanes having no polymerizable unsaturated groups such as

15 dimethoxydimethylsilane, dimethoxydiethylsilane, dimethoxydiphenylsilane, diethoxydimethylsilane, trimethoxymethylsilane, trimethoxyethylsilane, trimethoxypropylsilane, trimethoxyphenylsilane, tetramethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, tetrabutoxysilane and dimethoxydiethoxysilane;

20 polymerizable unsaturated group-containing alkoxy silanes such as vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane,

vinylmethyldimethoxysilane, vinylmethyldiethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ - (meth)acryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ - (meth)acryloyloxypropylmethyldimethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -

25 (meth)acryloyloxypropylmethyldiethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ - (meth)acryloyloxypropyltriethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -

(meth)acryloyloxyethyltrimethoxysilane and  $\gamma$ -

(meth)acryloyloxybutylphenyldimethoxysilane; partially condensed products of the alkoxy silanes described above having no

30 polymerizable unsaturated groups and/or the polymerizable unsaturated group-containing alkoxy silanes described above; and

copolymers of the polymerizable unsaturated group-containing alkoxy silanes described above with polymerizable unsaturated monomers which can be copolymerized with the above alkoxy silanes.

35 The polymerizable unsaturated monomers capable of being

copolymerized with the alkoxy silanes which are the monomer components for the copolymers described above include monomers other than the alkoxy silyl group-containing compounds capable of being used as the "other polymerizable unsaturated monomers" which are copolymerized with the epoxy group-containing polymerizable unsaturated monomers when the epoxy group-containing compounds described above are copolymers.

Capable of being given as the compound (hereinafter, abbreviated as a "polyacid anhydride") having two or more carboxylic anhydride groups which can be used as the curing agent (B) are, for example, pyromellitic anhydride, a condensation product [ethylenebis(anhydrotrimellitate)] of one mole of ethylene glycol and 2 moles of trimellitic anhydride, a condensation product [glycerintris-(anhydrotrimellitate)] of one mole of glycerin and 3 moles of trimellitic anhydride; linear or cyclic polyacid anhydrides obtained by subjecting polybasic acids such as succinic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, dodecanedioic acid, dimer acid, ethyl-octadecanedioic acid, phenyl-hexadecanedioic acid and 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid to intermolecular condensation; and polymers comprising a polymerizable unsaturated acid anhydride such as maleic anhydride and tetrahydrophtalic anhydride as a single monomer component. The monomers other than the polymerizable unsaturated acid anhydrides which can form the above polymers include, for example, alkyl (meth)acrylates having 1 to 24 carbon atoms such as methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, isopropyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, isobutyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, n-octyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate and stearyl (meth)acrylate; vinyl aromatic compounds such as styrene, vinyltoluene and  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene; polymerizable unsaturated monocarboxylic acids such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and crotonic acid; acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, tricyclodecanyl (meth)acrylate, isobornyl (meth)acrylate, vinyl acetate and Veova Monomer (manufactured by Shell Chemical Co., Ltd.).

A content of the acid anhydride groups in the polyacid anhydrides described above shall not specifically be restricted, and the whole acid value based on the acid anhydride groups falls suitably in a range of usually 50 to 1,100 mg KOH/g, preferably 80 to 5 800 mg KOH/g.

Among the compounds (B) described above, the polyisocyanate compounds and the amino resins can be given as the particularly suitable compound.

10 The compounds (B) described above can be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof.

Curable composition:

The curable composition I of the present invention comprises the polyorthoester (A) and the compound (B) each described above as the essential components. A blending proportion of these both 15 components shall not specifically be restricted and falls suitably in a range of usually 95/5 to 20/80, preferably 90/10 to 30/70 and more preferably 70/30 to 30/70.

In addition to the polyorthoester (A) and the compound (B), the curable composition I of the present invention can suitably 20 contain, if necessary, an acid catalyst, an organic solvent, a curing catalyst, a pigment, a UV absorber, a coated surface-controlling agent, an antioxidant, a fluidity-controlling agent and a wax.

25 The acid catalyst described above is a catalyst for accelerating a reaction of deblocking an orthoester group to reproduce a hydroxyl group. The kind thereof shall not specifically be restricted, and capable of being given are, for example, inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and nitric acid; sulfonic acid compounds such as methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, paratoluenesulfonic acid, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, dinonylnaphthalenesulfonic acid and dinonylnaphthalenedisulfonic acid; compounds obtained by neutralizing the sulfonic acid 30 compounds described above with bases such as amines; esters of the sulfonic acid compounds described above with primary, secondary or tertiary alcohols such as n-propanol, n-butanol, n-hexanol, n-octanol, 35 isopropanol, 2-butanol, 2-hexanol, 2-octanol, cyclohexanol and tert-

butanol;  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylsulfonic acid esters obtained by reacting the sulfonic acid compounds described above with oxirane group-containing compounds such as glycidyl acetate and butyl glycidyl ether; carboxylic acids such as formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid and octanoic acid; organic phosphoric acid base compounds such as monobutyl phosphate, dibutyl phosphate, monoisopropyl phosphate, diisopropyl phosphate, monooctyl phosphate, dioctyl phosphate, monodecyl phosphate, didecyl phosphate, metaphosphoric acid, orthophosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric acid, trimethyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate, tributyl phosphate, trioctyl phosphate, tributoxyethyl phosphate, tris-chloroethyl phosphate, triphenyl phosphate and tricresyl phosphate; compounds obtained by neutralizing the organic phosphoric acid base compounds described above with bases such as amines; light latent acid-generating agents which generate acids by irradiating with UV rays such as Cyracure UVI-6970, ditto UVI-6974 and ditto UVI-6990 (all described above are manufactured by Union Carbide Co., Ltd.), Irgacure 261 and ditto 264 (all described above are manufactured by Ciba Specialty Chemicals Co., Ltd.), CIT-1682 (manufactured by Nippon Soda Co., Ltd.), BBI-102 (manufactured by Midori Kagaku Co., Ltd.) and Adeka Optomer SP-150 and ditto SP-170 (all described above are manufactured by Asahi Denka Kogyo K.K.); and Lewis acids. Among them, particularly suited are the sulfonic acids compounds, the neutralized compounds of the sulfonic acids compounds, the organic phosphoric acid base compounds and the neutralized compounds of the organic phosphoric acid base compounds.

The curable composition I of the present invention can usually be a composition of a non-solvent or organic solvent type. When it is the composition of an organic solvent type, solvents which can dissolve or disperse the respective components of the curable composition I can be used, and capable of being given are, for example, hydrocarbon base solvents such as heptane, toluene, xylene, octane and mineral spirits; ester base solvents such as ethyl acetate, n-butyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether

acetate and diethylene glycol monobutyl ether acetate; ketone base solvents such as methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, diisobutyl ketone and cyclohexanone; alcohol base solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, sec-butanol and isobutanol; ether base solvents such as n-butyl ether, dioxane, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether and ethylene glycol monoethyl ether; and aromatic petroleum base solvents such as Swasol 310, Swasol 1000 and Swasol 1500 (all described above are manufactured by Cosmo Oil Co., Ltd.) and Shellsol A (manufactured by Shell Chemical Co., Ltd.). These organic solvents can be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof.

The curing catalyst described above which is blended, if necessary, with the curable composition I is intended for accelerating the curing reaction of the curable composition I, and suited when the compound (B) is a blocked polyisocyanate compound is, for example, a curing catalyst which promotes the dissociation of a blocking agent in the blocked polyisocyanate compound which is a curing agent. Capable of being given as the suited curing catalyst are, for example, organic metal catalysts such as tin octanoate, dibutyltin di(2-ethylhexanoate), dioctyltin di(2-ethylhexanoate), dioctyltin diacetate, dibutyltin dilaurate, dibutyltin oxide, dioctyltin oxide and lead 2-ethylhexanoate.

When the compound (B) is an amino resin such as a melamine resin, particularly a methyl-etherified or methyl ether and butyl ether-mixed etherified melamine resin having a low molecular weight, phosphoric acid, a sulfonic acid compound or an amine-neutralized product of the sulfonic acid compound is suitably used as the curing catalyst. The representative examples of the sulfonic acid compound include p-toluenesulfonic acid, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, dinonylnaphthalenesulfonic acid and dinonylnaphthalenedisulfonic acid. The amine in the amine-neutralized product of the sulfonic acid compound may be any one of primary amines, secondary amines and tertiary amines.

The curing catalyst used when the compound (B) is the epoxy group-containing compound includes, for example, chelating

compounds such as tetrakis(acetylacetonato)zirconium, cobalt acetylacetonate, tris(acetylacetonato)aluminum and manganese acetylacetonate; chelating reaction products of compounds having a  $\beta$ -hydroxyamino structure with lead (II) oxide; metal carboxylates such as lead 2-ethylhexanoate, lead secanoate, lead naphthenoate, lead octanoate, lead acetate, lead lactate and zirconium octanoate; and imidazole compounds such as imidazole, 2-methylimidazole, 2-isopropylimidazole, 2-undecylimidazole and 2-phenylimidazole.

The curing catalyst used when the compound (B) is the alkoxy silyl group-containing compound includes, for example, organic sulfonic acid compounds such as dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, paratoluenesulfonic acid, dinonylnaphthalenesulfonic acid and trifluorosulfonic acid; amine-neutralized products of these organic sulfonic acid compounds; and phosphoric acid base compounds such as monobutyl phosphate, dibutyl phosphate, monoisopropyl phosphate, diisopropyl phosphate, monooctyl phosphate, dioctyl phosphate, monodecyl phosphate, didecyl phosphate, metaphosphoric acid, orthophosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric acid, trimethyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate, tributyl phosphate, trioctyl phosphate, tributoxyethyl phosphate, tris-chloroethyl phosphate, triphenyl phosphate and tricresyl phosphate.

The curing catalyst used when the compound (B) is the polyacid anhydride includes, for example, quaternary salt catalysts such as tetraethylammonium bromide, tetrabutylammonium bromide, 25 tetraethylammonium chloride, tetrabutylammonium fluoride, tetrabutylphosphonium bromide, triphenylbenzylphosphonium chloride and n-dodecyltributylammonium bromide; and amines such as triethylamine and tributylamine.

Capable of being given as the pigment compounded, if necessary, with the curable composition I of the present invention are, for example, inorganic color pigments such as titanium white, carbon black, red iron oxide and titanium yellow; organic color pigments such as quinacridone red, azo red, phthalocyanine blue, phthalocyanine green and organic yellow pigments; brilliant 30 pigments such as aluminum powder and brilliant mica powder;

extender pigments such as silica powder, calcium carbonate, barium sulfate, mica, clay and talc; and rust preventive pigments such as calcium ion-exchanged silica, phosphate base rust preventive pigments and chromate base pigments.

5 The curable composition I of the present invention can suitably be used for uses in coating material compositions, adhesives and inks, particularly as a coating material composition. The curing conditions of the curable composition I of the present invention shall not specifically be restricted. Usually, when the curing time is 5 minutes or longer, the curing temperature falls suitably in a range of a room temperature (about 0°C) to about 200°C, particularly about 10 60°C to about 180°C, and when the curing time is shorter than 5 minutes, the curing temperature falls suitably in a range of about 60°C to about 300°C, particularly about 80°C to about 260°C.

15 Curable composition II:

The curable composition II of the present invention comprises a combination of:

- (1) a base polymer having a reactivity with the following curing agent (2),
- (2) a curing agent which has a group having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group and which has a reactivity with the base polymer (1), and
- (3) the polyorthoester described above according to the present invention, and it is characterized by that the viscosity can be reduced and the solid content can be elevated without bringing about problems on a curing property of the composition and a reduction in the hardness and that the compatibility and the wetting property to a base material are good.

25 Base polymer (1):

30 The base polymer (1) which is the component (1) in the curable composition II of the present invention is a polymer having a reactivity with the curing agent (2) described later. The base polymer (1) shall not specifically be restricted in a kind thereof as long as it has a reactive group (for example, a hydroxyl group, an 35 epoxy group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxy silyl group, an acid

anhydride group and an isocyanate group) capable of being reacted with the curing agent (2) and can be reacted with the curing agent (2) and cured.

The representative examples of the base polymer (1) include, for example, hydroxyl group-containing polymers having a hydroxyl group value falling in a range of 5 to 500 mg KOH/g, preferably 20 to 300 mg KOH/g and more preferably 50 to 200 mg KOH/g and a number average molecular weight falling in a range of 500 to 50,000, preferably 1,000 to 30,000 and more preferably 1,500 to 10,000.

Capable of being given as the resin kind of the base polymer (1) are, for example, acrylic resins, polyester resins, silicon acrylic resins, fluororesins and epoxy resins. Among them, particularly the acrylic resins and the polyester resins can suitably be used.

Capable of being given as the acrylic resin which can be used as the base polymer (1) are, for example, the (co)polymers of the following polymerizable unsaturated monomers having such reactive group as described above. Preferred are the polymers comprising 30 % by weight or more, preferably 40 to 90 % by weight of a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>24</sub> alkyl (meth)acrylate unit based on the whole monomer components, and the acrylic resins having a hydroxyl group are particularly suited.

The polymerizable unsaturated monomers having a reactive group include, for example, monoesters of polyhydric alcohols and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid such as 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, 2,3-dihydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate and polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate; compounds obtained by subjecting  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone to ring opening reaction with the monoesters described above of the polyhydric alcohols and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid; carboxyl group-containing polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid and crotonic acid; acid anhydride group-containing polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as maleic anhydride and itaconic anhydride; epoxy group-containing polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as glycidyl (meth)acrylate, allyl glycidyl ether and 3,4-epoxycyclohexylmethyl (meth)acrylate; isocyanate group-

containing polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as isocyanatethyl (meth)acrylate and  $\alpha$ -propenyl- $\alpha$ , $\alpha$ -dimethylbenzylisocyanate; and alkoxyisilyl group-containing polymerizable unsaturated compounds such as vinyltrimethoxysilane, 5 vinyltriethoxysilane, vinylmethyldimethoxysilane, vinylmethyldiethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropylmethyldimethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropylmethyldiethoxysilane,  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane,  $\beta$ -(meth)acryloyloxyethyltrimethoxysilane and 10  $\gamma$ -(meth)acryloyloxybutylphenyldimethoxysilane.

The other polymerizable unsaturated monomers which can be copolymerized with these polymerizable unsaturated monomers having a reactive group include, for example, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>24</sub> alkyl (meth)acrylates such as methyl (meth)acrylate, 15 ethyl (meth)acrylate, n-propyl (meth)acrylate, isopropyl (meth)acrylate, n-butyl (meth)acrylate, isobutyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, n-octyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate, stearyl (meth)acrylate, 20 isobornyl (meth)acrylate, tricyclodecanyl (meth)acrylate and cyclohexyl acrylate; nitrogen-containing (meth)acrylates such as N,N-dimethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, N,N-diethylaminoethyl (meth)acrylate, N,N-dimethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate and N,N-diethylaminopropyl (meth)acrylate; acrylamide, methacrylamide; 25 (meth)acrylamide derivatives such as N,N-dimethylaminoethyl-(meth)acrylamide, N,N-diethylaminoethyl(meth)acrylamide, N,N-dimethylaminopropyl(meth)acrylamide, N,N-diethylamino-propyl(meth)acrylamide, N-methylolacrylamide, N-methoxymethyl-acrylamide and N-methoxybutylacrylamide; vinyl aromatic 30 compounds such as styrene, vinyltoluene and  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene; acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, vinyl acetate and Beova Monomer (manufactured by Shell Chemical Co., Ltd.).

These polymerizable unsaturated monomers can be used alone or in combination of two or more kinds thereof.

The polyester resin capable of being used as the base polymer 35 (1) includes, for example, oil-free polyester resins, oil-modified alkyd

resins; and modified products of these resins, for example, urethane-modified polyester resins, urethane-modified alkyd resins and epoxy-modified polyester resins, and the polyester resins having a hydroxyl group are suited.

5 The oil-free polyester resin described above comprises an ester of a polybasic acid component and a polyhydric alcohol component. Mainly used as the polybasic acid component are, for example, at least one dibasic acid selected from phthalic anhydride, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, tetrahydronaphthalic anhydride, hexahydronaphthalic anhydride, hexahydroterephthalic anhydride, succinic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, sebacic acid and maleic anhydride, and lower alkyl esters of these acids. Capable of being used in combination are, if necessary, monobasic acids such as benzoic acid, crotonic acid and p-t-butylbenzoic acid, and trivalent or higher polybasic acids such as trimellitic anhydride, methylcyclohexenetricarboxylic acid and pyromellitic anhydride. Further, mainly used as the polyhydric alcohol component are, for example, dihydric alcohols such as ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,4-butanediol, neopentyl glycol, 3-methylpentanediol, 1,4-hexanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol and 1,4-dimethylolcyclohexane. Further, capable of being used in combination are, if necessary, trihydric or higher alcohols such as glycerin, trimethylolethane, trimethylolpropane and pentaerythritol. These polyhydric alcohols can be used alone or in a mixture of two or more kinds thereof. Esterification or transesterification between these both components can be carried out by a conventionally known method. Isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid and lower alkyl esters of these acids are particularly preferred as the acid component.

30 The alkyd resins are obtained by reacting the acid components and the alcohol components of the oil-free polyester resins described above with oil fatty acids by a conventionally known method. Capable of being given as the oil fatty acids are, for example, coconut oil fatty acid, soybean oil fatty acid, linseed oil fatty acid, safflower oil fatty acid, tall oil fatty acid, dehydrated castor oil fatty acid and tung

oil fatty acid. An oil length of the alkyd resins is preferably 30 % or less, particularly 5 to 20 %.

The urethane-modified polyester resins include resins obtained by reacting the oil-free polyester resins described above or oil-free polyester resins of a low molecular weight obtained by reacting the acid components and the alcohol components used in producing the oil-free polyester resins described above with polyisocyanate compounds by a conventionally known method. Also, the urethane-modified alkyd resin includes resins obtained by reacting the alkyd resins described above or alkyd resins of a low molecular weight obtained by reacting the respective components used in producing the alkyd resins described above with polyisocyanate compounds by a conventionally known method.

The polyisocyanate compounds which can be used in producing the modified polyester resins and the modified alkyd resins each described above include, for example, aliphatic, alicyclic, aromatic or aromatic/aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds such as hexamethylenediisocyanate, isophoronediisocyanate, xylilenediisocyanate, tolylenediisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane-diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate) and 2,4,6-triisocyanatotoluene.

In general, capable of being suitably used as the urethane-modified resins described above are the resins having such a modification degree that these polyisocyanate compounds constituting the urethane-modified resins account for 30 % by weight or less, particularly 1 to 20 % by weight based on the urethane-modified resins.

The epoxy-modified polyester resins include, for example, reaction products obtained by using polyester resins produced from the respective components used for producing the polyester resins described above and reacting carboxyl groups in the polyester resins with epoxy group-containing resins and reaction products obtained by bonding hydroxyl groups contained in polyester resins with hydroxyl groups contained in epoxy resins via polyisocyanate compounds by addition, condensation or graft reaction of the polyester resins with

the epoxy resins. In general, the epoxy-modified polyester resins have suitably such a modification degree that the epoxy resins account for 0.1 to 30 % by weight, particularly 1 to 20 % by weight based on the epoxy-modified polyester resins.

5 The silicon acrylic resins which can be used as the base polymer (1) include, for example, resins obtained by subjecting hydroxyl group-containing acrylic resins to condensation reaction with silicon resins having a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group by dehydration or dealcohol by heating, if necessary, in the presence of a 10 reaction catalyst such as a metal alkoxide compound.

10 The silicon polyester resins which can be used as the base polymer (1) include, for example, resins obtained by subjecting hydroxyl group-containing polyester resins to condensation reaction with silicon resins having a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group by 15 dehydration or dealcohol by heating, if necessary, in the presence of a reaction catalyst such as a metal alkoxide compound.

15 The silicon resin having a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group used for producing the silicon acrylic resins and the silicon polyester resins each described above can be obtained in the form of 20 commercial products, and capable of being given as the examples thereof are, for example, SH-6018, DC3074, DC3037 and SR2402 (all products described above are manufactured by Toray Dow Corning Co., Ltd.); KR9218 and X-40-9220 (all products described above are manufactured by Shin-etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), TSR165 and XR- 25 31B1763 (all products described above are manufactured by Toshiba Silicon Co., Ltd.).

20 In general, a use proportion of the silicon resins described above in the silicon acrylic resins and the silicon polyester resins falls suitably in a range of 1 to 100 parts by weight, particularly 5 to 60 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the resin solid matters of 30 the acrylic resins and the polyester resins.

25 The fluororesins which can be used as the base polymer (1) include preferably hydroxyl group-containing fluororesins, and capable of being given are, for example, copolymers of fuloroolefins 35 such as vinyl fluoride and hydroxyl group-containing polymerizable

unsaturated monomers such as hydroxyethyl vinyl ether with other polymerizable unsaturated monomers such as ethyl vinyl ether.

The epoxy resins which can be used as the base polymer (1) include, for example, glycidyl ether type epoxy resins, glycidyl ester type epoxy resins, other glycidyl type epoxy resins; and modified epoxy resins obtained by modifying these epoxy resins with modifying agents such as alkylphenols and fatty acids. These various epoxy resins may be increased in a molecular weight with a linking agent in order to obtain a suitable molecular weight.

The glycidyl ether type epoxy resins described above are epoxy resins having a glycidyl ether group which can be obtained by reacting polyhydric alcohols or polyhydric phenols with epihalohydrins or alkylene oxides. The examples of the polyhydric alcohols described above include ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, butylene glycol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,4-hexanediol, glycerin, trimethylolethane, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, diglycerin and sorbitol. The examples of the polyhydric phenols described above include 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane (bisphenol A), 2,2-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, halogenated bisphenol A, bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methane (bisphenol F), 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone, tris(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenol, resorcin, hydroquinone, tetrahydroxyphenylethane, 1,2,3-tris(2,3-epoxypropoxy)propane, novolak type polyhydric phenols and cresol type polyhydric phenols.

The glycidyl ester type epoxy resins described above include resins obtained by highly polymerizing diglycidyl phthalate, diglycidyl hexahydrophthalate, diglycidyl tetrahydrophthalate and dimeric acid diglycidyl ester by using linking agents.

The other glycidyl type epoxy resins described above include, for example, resins obtained by highly polymerizing tetraglycidylaminodiphenylmethane and triglycidylisocyanurate by using linking agents.

The modified epoxy resins are epoxy resins obtained by modifying epoxy resins before modified such as the glycidyl ether type epoxy resins and the glycidyl ester type epoxy resins each described above with modifying agents such as alkylphenols and fatty acids.

The linking agents used in order to optimize the molecular weights of the various epoxy resins such as the glycidyl ether type epoxy resins, the glycidyl ester type epoxy resins and the other glycidyl type epoxy resins each described above include, for example, polyhydric phenols, polyhydric alcohols, polybasic acids, primary or secondary amines and polyisocyanates. The polyhydric alcohols and polyhydric phenols which have been given above as the examples of the raw materials for the glycidyl ether type epoxy resins can be given as the polyhydric phenols and polyhydric alcohols. The polybasic acids include, for example, adipic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, hexahydrophthalic anhydride, tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, isophthalic acid and dimeric acid. The primary or secondary amines include, for example, ethylamine, n-propylamine, isopropylamine, n-butylamine, monoethanolamine and hexamethylenediamine. The polyisocyanates include, for example, isophorone diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate and hexamethylenediisocyanate.

Curing agent (2):

The curing agent which is the component (2) in the curable composition II of the present invention is a substance which has a reactivity with a hydroxyl group and which can be reacted with a hydroxyl group produced by hydrolysis of an orthoester group in the polyorthoester (3) described above and also reacted with the base polymer (1) to form a cured matter.

Capable of being given as the representative example of the curing agent (2) are, for example, polyisocyanate compounds, amino resins, epoxy group-containing compounds, alkoxy silyl group-containing compounds and compounds having two or more carboxylic anhydride groups.

The same ones as the examples of the compound (B) explained above as the curing agent (B) in the curable composition I of the

present invention can be given as the specific examples of these polyisocyanate compounds, amino resins, epoxy group-containing compounds, alkoxy silyl group-containing compounds and compounds having two or more carboxylic anhydride groups.

5 Curable composition:

The curable composition II of the present invention comprises a combination of the base polymer (1) and the curing agent (2) each described above and further comprises the polyorthoester of the present invention described above. A blending proportion of the respective components (1), (2) and (3) described above shall not specifically be restricted, and usually, it falls suitably in the following range based on 100 parts by weight of the total of solid matters contained in the components (1), (2) and (3):

component (1): 20 to 89 parts by weight, preferably 25 to 87 parts by weight and more preferably 30 to 85 parts by weight,  
component (2): 5 to 70 parts by weight, preferably 10 to 60 parts by weight and more preferably 15 to 55 parts by weight, and  
component (3): 1 to 40 parts by weight, preferably 3 to 25 parts by weight and more preferably 5 to 25 parts by weight.

20 The curable composition II of the present invention can suitably contain, if necessary, an acid catalyst, an organic solvent, a curing catalyst, a pigment, a UV absorber, a coated surface-controlling agent, an antioxidant, a fluidity-controlling agent and a wax in addition to the components (1), (2) and (3) described above.

25 The acid catalyst described above is a catalyst for accelerating a reaction of deblocking an orthoester group to reproduce a hydroxyl group. The kind thereof shall not specifically be restricted, and capable of being used as well are, for example, those which have been given as the examples of the acid catalyst capable of being blended with the curable composition I of the present invention.

30 The curable composition II of the present invention can usually be a composition of a non-solvent or organic solvent type. When it is the composition of an organic solvent type, solvents which can dissolve or disperse the respective components of the curable composition II can be used and include, for example, the same ones as

given as the examples of the organic solvents for the curable composition I.

Further, suitable ones selected from those given above as the examples of the curing catalyst and the pigment which can be blended with the curable composition I of the present invention can also be used as the curing catalyst and the pigment which are blended with the curable composition II of the present invention.

The curing conditions of the curable composition II of the present invention can be changed according to the kind of the curing agent (2) used and shall not specifically be restricted. Usually, when the curing time is 5 minutes or longer, the curing temperature falls suitably in a range of a room temperature (about 0°C) to about 200°C, particularly about 60°C to about 180°C, and when the curing time is shorter than 5 minutes, the curing temperature falls suitably in a range of about 60°C to about 300°C, particularly about 80°C to about 260°C.

The curable composition I of the present invention can suitably be used for uses in coating material compositions, adhesives and inks, particularly as a coating material composition.

## Examples

The present invention shall more specifically be explained below with reference to examples and comparative examples, and "parts" and "%" mean "parts by weight" and "% by weight" respectively.

### Production of polyester solution

#### Production Example 1

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a water separator, a fractionating column, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a solvent-recovering device was charged with 161 parts of 1,6-hexanediol, 351 parts of 1,4-dimethylolcyclohexane, 146 parts of trimethylolpropane, 114 parts of adipic acid, 300 parts of hexahydrophthalic anhydride and 243 parts of isophthalic acid, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen and then started to be heated. The temperature was elevated at a fixed

rate from 170°C to 230°C in 3 hours while removing condensation water and then maintained at 230°C for one hour. Thereafter, 50 parts of xylene was added, and the reaction was further promoted for 3 hours while maintaining at 230°C and removing condensation water by means of the water separator. Then, the reactor was cooled down, and 464 parts of xylene was added thereto to obtain a polyester solution (PE-1) having a non-volatile matter content of about 69 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of X. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a resin acid value of 6.5 mg KOH/g, a hydroxyl group value of 120 mg KOH/g, a number average molecular weight of 1,800 and a weight average molecular weight of 5,200.

#### Production of acrylic resin solution

##### Production Example 2

15 A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours 20 was a mixture comprising 600 parts of styrene, 636 parts of isobutyl methacrylate, 552 parts of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 612 parts of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 192 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was ripened at 135°C 25 for 30 minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 168 parts of xylene and 12 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile was dropwise added thereto in one hour. Then, the solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes to obtain an acrylic resin solution (AR-1) having a non-volatile matter content of about 63 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of U+. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a hydroxyl value of 110 mg KOH/g, a number average molecular weight of 1,900 and a weight average molecular weight of 4,300.

#### Production of polyorthoester

##### Example 1

35 A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-

controlling device and a solvent-recovering device was charged with 424 parts of methyl orthoformate, 640 parts of 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, 136 parts of pentaerythritol and 4 parts of a 90 % formic acid aqueous solution and maintained at about 85°C for one hour while distilling off methanol produced by alcohol exchange reaction. Then, the temperature was elevated up to 190°C in 2 hours, and 365 parts of methanol was recovered to obtain a colorless and liquid polyorthoester. The polyorthoester thus obtained had a Gardner viscosity of X<sup>+</sup> and a weight average molecular weight of 1,540.

10 Examples 2 to 12 and Comparative Examples 1 to 3.

The reaction was carried out in the same manner as in Example 1 to obtain the respective polyorthoesters, except that in Example 1, the blended raw material compositions were changed as shown in the following Table 1. In Examples 6 and 7, distilled off was a part of an organic solvent (xylene) contained in the raw material in addition to alcohol produced by alcohol exchange. The polyorthoester solution obtained in Example 6 had a solid content of about 74 %, and the polyorthoester solution obtained in Example 7 had a solid content of about 68 %.

20 The polyorthoester obtained in Comparative Example 1 had a solid content of about 100 % and crystallized. In Comparative Example 2 and Comparative Example 3, gelation took place in the middle of the reaction.

25 All the polyorthoesters obtained in Examples 1 to 5 and 8 to 12 were colorless and liquid polyorthoesters and had a solid content of substantially about 100 %. In Example 6 and Comparative Example 2, the acid catalyst was not blended, but a carboxyl group contained in the resin in the polyester solution (PE-1) works as a catalyst.

30 A remark in Table 1 means the following:

(remark 1) Placcel 305: polycaprolactonepolyol, manufactured by Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Table 1

Component (A)	Example						Comparative Example								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
Methyl orthoformate	424				106				424	636	424	424	212	35	
Methyl orthoacetate				480	480		120	360							40
Ethyl orthoformate			592												
2-Butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol	640	640	640			160	160			320	160	640			
Neopentyl glycol					416				312						
2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol						584									
1,2-Hexanediol													472		

To be continued

Table 1 (continued)

Properties of polyacrylate ester (solution)	Recoveries of alcohol	Acid catalyzed	Gardner viscosity	X <sup>+</sup>	W	M	G <sup>+</sup>	Al <sup>+</sup>	Z	UV	S	OP	W	Y	T	Example			
																1	2	3	
Pentaerythritol	136	136	136	136	136	136				68	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	
Polyester solution (PE-1)							668												
Acrylic resin solution (AR-1)							850												668
Placel 305 (remark 1)										550									850
Trimethylol- propane											268	536							
90 % formic acid aqueous solution	4	4	4	4	4	4		2	3	8	6		4	4					2
p-Toluenesulfonic acid												1							
Methanol	365	360	366	342	91	92	267	362	523	341	360	130	16	22					
Ethanol		539																	

A weight average molecular weight, a hydroxyl group value and a viscosity of the polyorthoesters obtained in Examples 1 and 11 were compared with those of Placcel 303, and the results thereof are shown in the following Table 2.

5 A remark in Table 2 means the following:

(remark 2) Placcel 303: polycaprolactonepolyol, manufactured by Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Table 2

	Weight average molecular weight	Hydroxyl group value* (mg KOH/g)	Viscosity (mPa·s)
Polyorthoester of Example 1	1540	550	1350
Polyorthoester of Example 11	1590	550	1420
Praccel 303 (remark 2)	610	540	1800

10 \* The hydroxyl group value represents a hydroxyl group value obtained after hydrolysis (a hydroxyl group value after recovering a hydroxyl group) in polyorthoesters.

15 It is apparent from the results shown in Table 1 that all the polyorthoesters obtained in Examples 2 to 5 and Examples 8 to 10 and 12 had a lower Gardner viscosity than that of the polyorthoester obtained in Example 1.

20 The polyorthoester obtained in Example 6 had a solid content of about 74 %, and when the solid content was controlled to 69 % by adding xylene to the above polyorthoester, the Gardner viscosity was V, which was lower than the viscosity X of the polyester solution (PE-1) having a solid content of 69 % used in Example 6.

25 Further, the polyorthoester solution obtained in Example 7 had a solid content of about 68 %, and when the solid content was controlled to 63 % by adding xylene to the above polyorthoester, the Gardner viscosity was O, which was lower than the viscosity U<sup>+</sup> of the acrylic resin solution (AR-1) having a solid content of 63 % used as a raw material in Example 7.

Production of compound having two or more groups having reactivity with a hydroxyl group in a molecule

Production Example 3

5 A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours  
10 was a mixture comprising 720 parts of styrene, 720 parts of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 960 parts of glycidyl methacrylate and 192 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was aged at 135°C for 30 minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 168 parts of xylene and 12 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile  
15 was dropwise added in one hour. Then, the solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes to obtain an epoxy group-containing acrylic resin solution (B-1) having a non-volatile matter content of about 63 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of S. The resulting resin (solid matter) had an epoxy equivalent of about 370, a number average  
20 molecular weight of 2,100 and a weight average molecular weight of 4,900.

Production Example 4

25 A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours  
30 was a mixture comprising 600 parts of styrene, 600 parts of maleic anhydride, 1200 parts of n-butyl acrylate and 192 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was aged at 135°C for 30 minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 168 parts of xylene and 12 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile  
35 was dropwise added in one hour. Then, the solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes to obtain an acid anhydride group-containing

acrylic resin solution (B-2) having a non-volatile matter content of about 63 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of R-. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a whole acid value of about 266 mg KOH/g, a half acid value of about 138 mg KOH/g, a number average molecular weight of 1,900 and a weight average molecular weight of 4,800.

### Production Example 5

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours was a mixture comprising 720 parts of styrene, 720 parts of n-butyl methacrylate, 480 parts of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 480 parts of  $\gamma$ -methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxsilane and 192 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was aged at 135°C for 30 minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 168 parts of xylene and 12 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile was dropwise added in one hour. Then, the solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes to obtain an alkoxy silyl group-containing acrylic resin solution (B-3) having a non-volatile matter content of about 63 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of W. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a number average molecular weight of 2,800 and a weight average molecular weight of 5,500.

### Production Example 6

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours was a mixture comprising 480 parts of styrene, 480 parts of maleic anhydride, 480 parts of glycidyl methacrylate, 960 parts of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and 192 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was aged at 135°C for 30

minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 168 parts of xylene and 12 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile was dropwise added in one hour. Then, the solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes to obtain an acrylic resin solution (B-4) containing an epoxy group and acid anhydride group and having a non-volatile matter content of about 63 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of S<sup>+</sup>. The resulting resin (solid matter) had an epoxy equivalent of about 710, a half acid value of about 102 mg KOH/g, a number average molecular weight of 2,200 and a weight average molecular weight of 4,900.

10

### Preparation of curable composition I

#### Example 13

The polyorthoester 100 parts obtained in Example 1 was blended with 191 parts of Desmodur N-3300 (triisocyanurate of hexamethylenediisocyanate, manufactured by Sumitomo Bayer Urethane Co., Ltd.) and 11.6 parts of Nacure 5543 (sulfonate base acid catalyst solution, active ingredient: about 25 %, manufactured by King Industries Inc., U.S.A.), and the solution was homogeneously mixed to obtain a curable composition.

20

#### Examples 14 to 34 and Comparative Examples 4 to 5

The same operation as in Example 13 was carried out to obtain the respective curable compositions, except that in Example 13, the blending composition was changed as shown in the following Table 3.

The remarks in Table 3 mean the following respectively:  
(remark 1) and (remark 2) mean the same as those described above  
(remark 3) Cymel 303: methyl-etherified melamine resin, solid content: about 100 %, manufactured by Mitsui Cytec Co., Ltd.)  
(remark 4) Cymel 325: methyl-etherified melamine resin, solid content: about 80 %, manufactured by Mitsui Cytec Co., Ltd.)  
(remark 5) SB-20AH: polyacid anhydride of ethyl-octadecanedioic acid, condensation degree: about 4.1, manufactured by Okamura Oil Mill, Ltd.).

35

The respective curable compositions obtained in Examples 13

to 34 and Comparative Examples 4 to 5 were tested for a compatibility and a solvent resistance and a gel ratio of the cured coating films based on the following test methods. Further, the respective curable compositions obtained in Examples 13 to 34 and Comparative Examples 4 to 5 were tested as well for a pot life. The test results thereof are shown in the following Table 3. Further, the Gardner viscosities of the respective curable compositions obtained in Examples 13 to 34 and Comparative Examples 4 to 5 are shown as well in Table 3.

10 Test methods

Compatibility:

Each curable composition was put in a test tube to visually observe the appearance thereof, and it was evaluated according to the following criteria:

15

O: not cloudy and transparent, and compatibility is good

Δ: cloudy, and compatibility is inferior

✗: phases are separated, and compatibility is notably inferior

20 Solvent resistance:

The curable composition was coated on a polished cold rolled steel plate so that a dried film thickness was about 30µm and dried at 140°C for 30 minutes (only the composition prepared in Example 30 was dried at 160°C for 30 minutes) to obtain a coating film. The surface of the coated film was rubbed in a length of about 5 cm at a load of about 1 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> by 20 reciprocations with a three-folded gauze impregnated with xylene, and then the state of the surface of the coated film was observed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

30

O: coating film has no scratches and dull glossiness and is of a good state

Δ: coating film has slightly scratches or slightly dull glossiness and is of a little inferior state

35 ✗: coating film is dissolved or markedly scratched

## Gel ratio:

The curable composition was coated on a teflon sheet so that a dried film thickness was about 30 $\mu$ m and dried at 140°C for 30 minutes (only the composition prepared in Example 30 was dried at 160°C for 30 minutes), and the coating film was peeled off to obtain a free coating film. The free coating film was extracted under refluxing in acetone for 6 hours, and the gel ratio (%) was determined from the coating film weights before and after extraction according to the following equation:

$$\text{gel ratio} = \frac{(\text{coating film weight after extraction})}{(\text{coating film weight before extraction})} \times 100$$

## Pot life:

The curable composition was put in a glass bottle of 100 ml, and the bottle was sealed up and left standing in a dark place of 30°C to measure the viscosity every 6 hours to determine time passing until the viscosity grew larger to lose fluidity:

O: fluidity is kept even after passage of 24 hours

$\Delta$ : fluidity is kept after 6 hours, but fluidity is lost after 24 hours

$\times$ : fluidity is lost within 6 hours

Table 3

Polyortho- ester	Kind (Production Example No.)	Example										Comparative Example		
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	4	5
	Amount	100	100	100	100	100	131	143	100	100	100	100		
Pracel 305 (remark 1)													100	
Pracel 303 (remark 2)													100	
Desmodur N3300	191	181	240	191	62	57	127	227	265	191			187	106
Lysinetriisocyanate		90											105	
Cymel 303 (remark 3)														
Cymel 325 (remark 4)														
SB-20AH (remark 5)														

To be continued

Table 3 (continued)

Test results	Example										Comparative Example			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	4	5
(B-1)														
(B-2)														
(B-3)														
(B-4)														
Nacure 5543	11.6	7.6	11.2	13.6	11.6	6.5	6.3	9.1	13.1	14.6	11.6	8.2	11.5	8.2
Lead 2-ethylhexanoate														
Tetrabutylammonium bromide														
Gardner viscosity (25°C)	V	F	Q	KL	G <sup>-</sup>	Y	T <sup>+</sup>	S	QR	UV	V <sup>+</sup>	C <sup>-</sup>	Z	W
Compatibility	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	x	Δ
Solvent resistance	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	x	Δ
Gel ratio (%)	97	99	96	98	95	95	97	99	99	98	99	98	85	96
Pot life	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	x	x

Table 3 (continued)

		Example									
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Polyortho- ester	Kind (Production Example No.)	1	3	8	4	1	1	1	7	1	1
	Amount	100	100	100	100	20	20	143	20	20	20
Placcel 305	(remark 1)										
Placcel 303	(remark 2)										
Desmodur N3300											
Lysinetriisocyanate											
Cymel 303	(remark 3)	67	67	67		20					
Cymel 325	(remark 4)				84						
SB-20AH	(remark 5)							20			

To be continued

Table 3 (continued)

Acrylic resin solution having a non-volatile matter content of 63 %	Example						
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
(B-1)					123		
(B-2)						123	
(B-3)							123
(B-4)							123
Nacure 5543	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	12.4	4	4
Lead 2-ethylhexanoate					3		
Tetrabutylammonium bromide						1.5	1.5
Test Result	Compatibility	O	O	O	O	O	O
Solvent resistance	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Gel ratio (%)	99	99	99	99	94	95	97
					98	98	99

Production of acrylic resin solution

## Production Example 7

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours was a mixture comprising 600 parts of styrene, 384 parts of isobutyl methacrylate, 480 parts of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 552 parts of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 450 parts of Placel FM-3X (80 % xylene solution, manufactured by Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd.), 24 parts of acrylic acid and 120 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was aged at 135°C for 30 minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 144 parts of xylene and 24 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile was dropwise added in one hour. Then, the solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes to obtain an acrylic resin solution (AR-2) having a non-volatile matter content of about 60 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of T. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a hydroxyl value of about 117 mg KOH/g, a number average molecular weight of 3,400 and a weight average molecular weight of 7,500.

## Production Example 8

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 983 parts of xylene and 240 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours was a mixture comprising 240 parts of styrene, 240 parts of methyl methacrylate, 720 parts of n-butyl methacrylate, 240 parts of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 960 parts of glycidyl methacrylate and 120 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile. After finishing dropwise adding, the solution was aged at 135°C for 30 minutes, and then a mixed solution comprising 144 parts of xylene and 24 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile was dropwise added in one hour. Then, the

solution was maintained at 135°C for 30 minutes and diluted with 234 parts of xylene to obtain an acrylic resin solution (AR-3) having a non-volatile matter content of about 60 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of RS. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a hydroxyl value of about 43 mg KOH/g, an epoxy equivalent of about 360, a number average molecular weight of about 3,000 and a weight average molecular weight of 6,900.

#### Production Example 9

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a dropping funnel was charged with 288 parts of xylene and 432 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen, heated and maintained at 135°C. Dropwise added thereto in 4 hours was a mixture comprising 701 parts of styrene, 463 parts of isobutyl methacrylate, 636 parts of isobutyl acrylate, 600 parts of maleic anhydride and 720 parts of 3-methoxybutyl acetate, and a mixture comprising 264 parts of t-butylperoxy-2-ethylhexanoate and 672 parts of xylene was dropwise added at the same time therewith in 4 hours and 30 minutes to obtain an acrylic resin solution (AR-4) having a non-volatile matter content of about 56 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of ST. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a whole acid value of about 270, a number average molecular weight of 1,900 and a weight average molecular weight of 4,100.

#### Production of polyester solution

#### Production Example 10

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device, a water separator, a fractionating column, a nitrogen-introducing tube and a solvent-recovering device was charged with 200 parts of neopentyl glycol, 101 parts of trimethylolpropane, 132 parts of isophthalic acid, 116 parts of adipic acid, 61 parts of hexahydrophthalic anhydride and 68 parts of 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, and the reactor was substituted with nitrogen and then started to be heated. The temperature was

elevated at a fixed rate from 170°C to 230°C in 3 hours while removing condensation water and then maintained at 230°C for one hour. Thereafter, 30 parts of xylene was added thereto, and the reaction was further promoted for 7 hours while maintaining at 230°C and removing condensation water by means of the water separator. Then, the reactor was cooled down, and 370 parts of xylene was added thereto to obtain a polyester solution (PE-2) having a non-volatile matter content of about 60 % and a Gardner viscosity (20°C) of V. The resulting resin (solid matter) had a resin acid value of about 10 mg KOH/g, a hydroxyl value of about 128 mg KOH/g, a number average molecular weight of 2,300 and a weight average molecular weight of 12,000.

#### Production of polyorthoester

##### Example 35

A reactor equipped with a stirrer, a condenser, a temperature-controlling device and a solvent-recovering device was charged with 636 parts of methyl orthoformate, 960 parts of 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, 254 parts of dipentaerythritol and 2 parts of a 90 % formic acid aqueous solution and maintained at about 85°C for one hour while distilling off methanol produced by alcohol exchange reaction. Then, the temperature was elevated up to 190°C in 2 hours, and 553 parts of methanol was recovered to obtain a colorless and liquid polyorthoester (C-5). The polyorthoester (C-5) thus obtained had a Gardner viscosity of Z<sub>4</sub> and a weight average molecular weight of 2,010.

The polyorthoesters thus obtained was a colorless and liquid polyorthoester and had a solid content of substantially about 100 %.

#### Preparation of curable composition II

##### Example 36

The 60 % acrylic resin solution (AR-2) 16.7 parts obtained in Example 7 was blended with 9.9 parts of Desmodur N-3300 (triisocyanurate of hexamethylenediisocyanate, manufactured by Sumitomo Bayer Urethane Co., Ltd.), 3.0 parts of the polyorthoester

obtained in Example 1, 4.0 parts of xylene, 0.7 part of 3-methoxybutyl acetate and 0.9 part of Nacure 5543 (sulfonic acid base acid catalyst solution, active ingredient: about 25 %, manufactured by King Industries Inc., U.S.A.), and the solution was homogeneously mixed 5 to obtain a curable composition having a non-volatile matter content of 65 %.

#### Examples 37 to 46 and Comparative Examples 6 to 10

The same operation as in Example 36 was carried out to 10 obtain the respective curable compositions, except that in Example 36, the blending composition was changed as shown in the following Table 4. The curable compositions obtained in Example 46 and Comparative Example 10 had a non-volatile matter content of 60 %, and all the curable compositions obtained in Examples 37 to 45 and 15 Comparative Examples 6 to 9 had a non-volatile matter content of 65 %.

The remark in Table 4 means the following:  
(remark 6) Cymel 303: methyl-etherified melamine resin, solid content: about 100 %, manufactured by Mitsui Cytec Co., Ltd.

20 The respective curable compositions obtained in Examples 36 to 46 and Comparative Examples 6 to 10 were tested for a gel ratio, a coating film hardness and a solvent resistance of the cured coating films based on the following test methods. The test results thereof are shown in the following Table 4. Further, the Gardner 25 viscosities of the respective curable compositions obtained in Examples 36 to 46 and Comparative Examples 6 to 10 are shown as well in Table 4. All the respective curable compositions were excellent in a compatibility and a wetting property to the base material.

#### 30 Test methods

##### Gel ratio:

The curable composition was coated on a teflon sheet so that a dried film thickness was about 30 $\mu$ m and dried at 140°C for 30 minutes, and the coating film was peeled off to obtain a free coating 35 film. The free coating film was extracted under refluxing in acetone

for 6 hours, and the gel ratio (%) was determined from the coating film weights before and after extraction according to the following equation:

$$5 \quad \text{gel ratio} = \frac{(\text{coating film weight after extraction})}{(\text{coating film weight before extraction})} \times 100$$

Coating film hardness:

10 The curable composition was coated on a polished cold rolled steel plate so that a dried film thickness was about 30μm and dried at 140°C for 30 minutes to obtain a coating film. The coating film thus obtained was measured for a Knoop hardness at 20°C on the conditions of a load of 25 g and a load-applying time of 20 seconds by means of a microhardness meter ("Model DMH-2", a product manufactured by Matsuzawa Seiki Co., Ltd.). The larger the value, the higher the hardness.

Solvent resistance:

20 The curable composition was coated on a polished cold rolled steel plate so that a dried film thickness was about 30μm and dried at 140°C for 30 minutes to obtain a coating film. The surface thereof was rubbed in a length of about 5 cm at a load of about 1 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> by 20 reciprocations with a three-folded gauze impregnated with xylene, 25 and then the state of the coated face was observed and evaluated according to the following criteria:

O: coating film has no scratches and dull glossiness and is of a good state

30 Δ: coating film has slightly scratches or slightly dull glossiness and is of a little inferior state

×: coating film is dissolved or markedly scratched

Table 4

Base polymer	Example										Comparative Example				
	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	6	7	8	9
Acrylic resin solution AR-2	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7		
Acrylic resin solution AR-3												16.7			
Polyester solution PE-2															16.7
Desmodur N-3300	9.9	9.5	8.7	9.2	9.7					16.7	16.7	16.7		16.7	16.7
Cymel 303 (remark 6)						4	4			10.3			4.1		4.5
Acrylic resin solution AR-4													4		4
Polyorthoeste	Example 1	3										16.7			16.7
	Example 3	3											3		
	Example 4		2										3		
	Example 8			4											
	Example 35				3										

To be continued

Table 4 (continued)

Respective comparisons of Example 36 with Comparative Example 6, Example 41 with Comparative Example 7, Example 43 with Comparative Example 8, Example 44 with Comparative Example 9 and Example 46 with Comparative Example 10 show that in all cases, the addition of the polyorthoesters allow the curable compositions to be reduced in a viscosity in the same non-volatile matter content and solvent composition without lowering the curing property and the hardness.

It can be found from the matters described above that the curable composition II according to the present invention can achieve a reduction in a viscosity without reducing the coating film performances by adding the polyorthoester and therefore is useful particularly as a binder for a high solid coating material.

## 15 Industrial Applicability

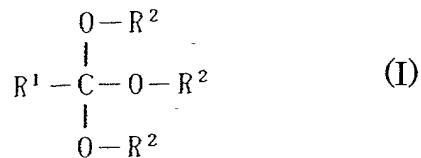
The polyorthoester of the present invention comprises an orthoester structure introduced into a hydroxyl group part of a hydroxyl group-containing compound and has a high degree of freedom in molecular design, and it can be applied to various fields and is industrially very useful. The polyorthoester of the present invention can be produced without causing gelation and a marked rise in a viscosity, and it has a low viscosity and can readily be controlled in a molecular weight. Further, the polyorthoester of the present invention can be produced by means of the same apparatus as a conventional polyester resin production apparatus in which alcohol produced by condensation can be distilled off, and therefore it does not require a specific apparatus and can readily be produced, so that it is industrially useful from such point of view.

The curable composition of the present invention is a composition comprising a polyorthoester and a curing agent. The polyorthoester comprises, as described above, an orthoester structure introduced into a hydroxyl group part of a hydroxyl group-containing compound and has a high degree of freedom in molecular design, and it can be applied to various fields and is industrially very useful. Further, the curable composition I of the present invention comprises

a structure in which a hydroxyl group in a hydroxyl group-containing compound is blocked by the orthoester and therefore is free of problems originating in a hydroxyl group, for example, a problem on a rise in a viscosity of the curable composition, so that it can be increased in a solid content and is excellent in a compatibility, a wetting property to a base material and a storage stability.

## CLAIMS

1. A polyorthoester prepared by reacting:  
 (a) an orthoester represented by the following Formula (I):



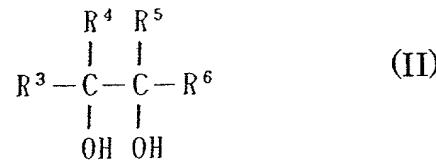
wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and three  $\text{R}^2$ 's may be the same or different and each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

(b) at least one glycol compound selected from  $\alpha$ -glycols and  $\beta$ -glycols, and  
 (c) a hydroxyl group-containing compound having at least two hydroxyl groups in a molecule other than the compound (b) described above.

2. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein the orthoester (a) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methyl orthoformate, ethyl orthoformate, propyl orthoformate, butyl orthoformate, methyl orthoacetate, ethyl orthoacetate, methyl orthopropionate, ethyl orthopropionate, methyl orthobutyrate and ethyl orthobutyrate.

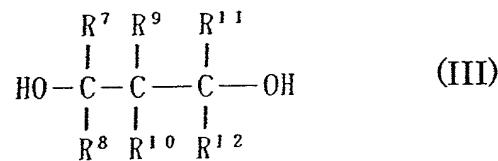
3. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein the orthoester (a) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methyl orthoformate, ethyl orthoformate, methyl orthoacetate and ethyl orthoacetate.

4. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein the glycol compound (b) is at least one glycol compound selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ -glycol represented by the following Formula (II):



wherein  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly and

a  $\beta$ -glycol represented by the following Formula (III):



wherein  $\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$  and  $\text{R}^{12}$  may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by  $\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$  and  $\text{R}^{12}$  falls in a range of 0 to 24; and  $\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^9$  or  $\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly.

5. The polyorthoester as described in claim 4, wherein the  $\alpha$ -glycol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,2-butyleneglycol, 2,3-butyleneglycol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-dihydroxycyclohexane, pinacol, hydrolysis products of long chain alkyl monoepoxides, glycerin monoacetate ( $\alpha$  product), glycerin monostearate ( $\alpha$  product), 3-ethoxypropane-1,2-diol and 3-phenoxypropane-1,2-diol.

6. The polyorthoester as described in claim 4, wherein the  $\beta$ -glycol is selected from the group consisting of neopentyl glycol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol, 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, 2,2-diethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol, 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-phenoxypropane-1,3-diol, 2-methyl-2-phenylpropane-1,3-diol, 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, dimethylolpropionic acid, dimethylolbutanoic acid, 2-ethyl-1,3-octanediol, 1,3-dihydroxycyclohexane, glycerin monoacetate ( $\beta$  product) and glycerin monostearate ( $\beta$  product).

7. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein the glycol compound (b) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,2-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol, 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, 2,2-diethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol and 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol.

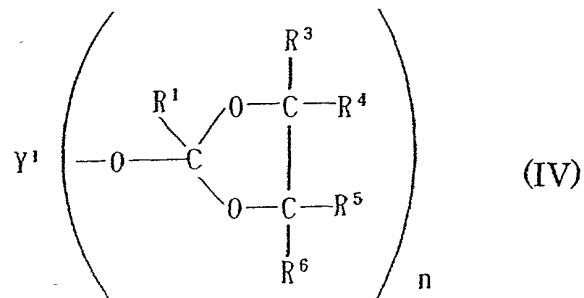
8. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1,4-butanediol, 1,4-dihydroxycyclohexane, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,5-hexanediol, 3-methyl-1,5-pentanediol, 1,4-dimethylolcyclohexane, tricyclodecanedimethanol, 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropyl-2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropionate, bisphenol A, bisphenol F, bis(4-hydroxyhexyl)-2,2-propane, bis(4-hydroxyhexyl)methane, 3,9-bis(1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)-2,4,8,10-tetraoxaspiro[5,5]undecane, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetra- or more polyethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, tetra- or more polypropylene glycol, copolymers having hydroxyl groups at both terminals obtained by copolymerizing ethylene oxide with propylene oxide, polycaprolactonediol, polycarbonatediol, carboxylic acid adducts of diepoxide, glycerin, diglycerin, triglycerin, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, sorbitol, mannit, trimethylolethane,

trimethylolpropane, ditrimethylolpropane, tris(2-hydroxyethyl)isocyanurate, gluconic acid and polymers having 3 or more hydroxyl groups.

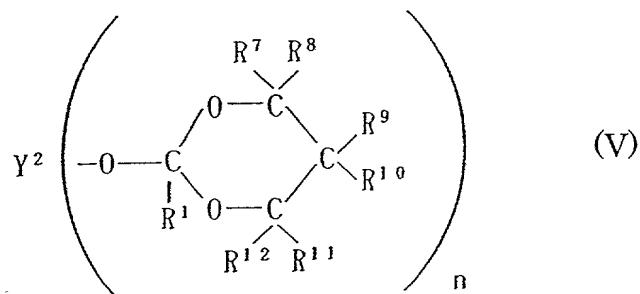
9. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) has a molecular weight falling in a range of 90 to 100,000 and a hydroxyl group value falling in a range of 20 to 1,850 mg KOH/g.

10. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, wherein a hydroxyl group contained in the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) is blocked by an orthoester of a 5-membered ring or a 6-membered ring constituted by the orthoester (a) and the glycol compound (b).

11. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (IV):

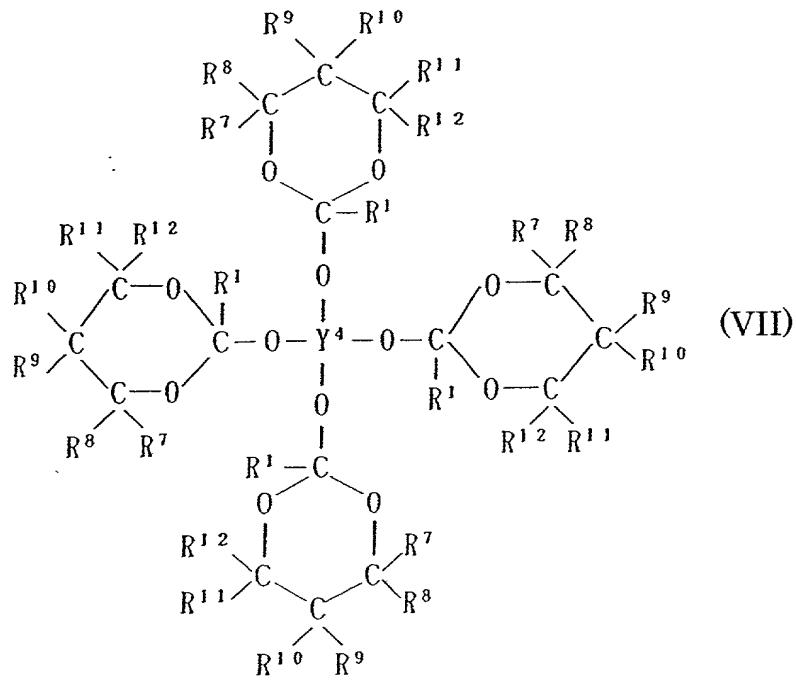


wherein Y<sup>1</sup> represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule; R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4; and n represents an integer of 2 to 6, or  
the following Formula (V):



wherein Y<sup>2</sup> represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule; R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4; and n represents an integer of 2 to 6.

12. The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (VII):



wherein Y<sup>4</sup> represents a residue obtained by removing the following four hydroxyl groups from a compound having four hydroxyl groups in a molecule; and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4.

13. A production process for a polyorthoester characterized by subjecting the orthoester (a), the glycol compound (b) and the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c) each described in claim 1 to condensation reaction in the presence of an acid catalyst.
14. The process as described in claim 13, wherein the orthoester (a) in a proportion falling in a range of 0.05 to 5 moles is reacted with the glycol compound (b) in a proportion falling in a range of 0.05 to 5 moles each per equivalent of a hydroxyl group contained in the hydroxyl group-containing compound (c).
15. A curable composition comprising:
  - (A) the polyorthoester as described in claim 1, and
  - (B) a curing agent having a group having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group.
16. The curable composition as described in claim 15, wherein the curing agent (B) is at least one compound or resin selected from the group consisting of polyisocyanate compounds, amino resins, epoxy group-containing compounds, alkoxy silyl group-containing compounds and compounds having two or more carboxylic anhydride groups.
17. The curable composition as described in claim 15, wherein the curing agent (B) is at least one compound or resin selected from the group consisting of polyisocyanate compounds and amino resins.
18. The curable composition as described in claim 15, comprising the polyorthoester (A) and the curing agent (B) in a range of 95/5 to 20/80 in terms of a solid matter weight ratio of (A)/(B).
19. The curable composition as described in claim 15, further comprising an acid catalyst.
20. The curable composition as described in claim 19, wherein

the acid catalyst is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid compounds, neutralized compounds of the sulfonic acid compounds, organic phosphoric acid base compounds and neutralized compounds of the organic phosphoric acid base compounds.

21. The curable composition as described in claim 15, assuming the form of a coating material composition, an adhesive or an ink.

22. A curable composition comprising:

- (1) a base polymer having a reactivity with the following curing agent (2),
- (2) a curing agent which has a group having a reactivity with a hydroxyl group and which has a reactivity with the base polymer (1), and
- (3) the polyorthoester as described in claim 1.

23. The curable composition as described in claim 22, wherein the base polymer (1) is a hydroxyl group-containing polymer having a hydroxyl group value falling in a range of 20 to 300 mg KOH/g and a number average molecular weight falling in a range of 1,000 to 30,000.

24. The curable composition as described in claim 22, wherein the base polymer (1) is at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl group-containing acrylic resins and hydroxyl group-containing polyester resins.

25. The curable composition as described in claim 22, wherein the curing agent (2) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyisocyanate compounds, amino resins, epoxy group-containing compounds, alkoxysilyl group-containing compounds and compounds having two or more carboxylic anhydride groups.

26. The curable composition as described in claim 22, wherein the curing agent (2) is at least one compound or resin selected from the group consisting of polyisocyanate compounds and amino resins.

27. The curable composition as described in claim 22, comprising the base polymer (1), the curing agent (2) and the polyorthoester (3) in a range of 20 to 89 parts by weight of the component (1), 5 to 70 parts by weight of the component (2) and 1 to 40 parts by weight of the component (3) based on 100 parts by weight of the total of solid matters contained in the respective components (1), (2) and (3).

28. The curable composition as described in claim 22, further comprising an acid catalyst.

29. The curable composition as described in claim 28, wherein the acid catalyst is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid compounds, neutralized compounds of the sulfonic acid compounds, organic phosphoric acid base compounds and neutralized compounds of the organic phosphoric acid base compounds.

30. The curable composition as described in claim 22, assuming the form of a coating material composition, an adhesive or an ink.

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a novel polyorthoester which is prepared by reacting:

- (a) an orthoester such as methyl orthoformate, ethyl orthoformate, methyl orthoacetate and ethyl orthoacetate,
- (b) at least one glycol compound selected from  $\alpha$ -glycols and  $\beta$ -glycols, and
- (c) a hydroxyl group-containing compound having at least two hydroxyl groups in a molecule other than the compound (b) described above

and which has a high degree of freedom in molecular design and a low viscosity and is readily controlled in a molecular weight and to a curable composition comprising the above polyorthoester.

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR U. S. PATENT APPLICATION

Original  Supplemental  Substitute  PCT  Design

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Title: POLYORTHOESTER AND CURABLE COMPOSITION CONTAINING THE SAME

of which is described and claimed in:

the attached specification, or  
 the specification in the application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_;  
 and with amendments through \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable), or  
 the specification in International Application No. PCT/JP00/06220, filed Sep. 12, 2000, and as amended  
 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (and §172 if this application is for a Design) of any application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED
Japan	263,820/99 ✓	September 17, 1999	Yes
Japan	300,894/99 ✓	October 22, 1999	Yes
Japan	337,837/99 ✓	November 29, 1999	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	U.S. FILING DATE	STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

6- And I hereby appoint Michael R. Davis, Reg. No. 25,134; Matthew M. Jacob, Reg. No. 25,154; Warren M. Cheek, Jr., Reg. No. 33,367; Nils Pedersen, Reg. No. 33,145; Charles R. Watts, Reg. No. 33,142; and Michael S. Huppert, Reg. No. 40,268, who together constitute the firm of WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P., as well as any other attorneys and agents associated with Customer No. 000513, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and myself. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys named herein will be so notified by me.

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Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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 6th Inventor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 7th Inventor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The above application may be more particularly identified as follows:

U.S. Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Filing Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant Reference Number \_\_\_\_\_ Atty Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of Invention \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_